

COMPLIMENTARY ISSUE!

THE SHOPPER'S GUIDE TO NEW PRODUCTS

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GAMING, MEDIA & MORE Xbox One



COMPUTERS & TABLETS Get Familiar With App-Based Operating Systems



COMPUTERS & TABLETS Sony Xperia Tablet Z



DIGITAL IMAGING Let The In-Store Tech Pros Care For Your Devices

August 2013 • Complimentary Copy

Capture, Store & Relive Every Summer Memory

FirstGlimpse

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On Our Cover

Xbox One

SKU: 9008207

www.bestbuy.com/xboxone

Sony Xperia Tablet Z

SKU: 9833884

www.sony.com

With So Many Touch-Based Devices,
It's No Secret That
Apps Are Everywhere

Get The Most From Your
Digital Imaging Devices:
Pro Camera Services

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accessories, and media
streaming possibilities.

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Make Your Smart TV Any Way You Like A Home Theater PC

Connect your TV to a computer—be it a laptop, an all-in-one, or a desktop PC—and you'll have a powerhouse of digital entertainment at your disposal. All you need is an HDMI cable or a wireless HD kit to attach your PC to your HDTV or A/V receiver.

HOME THEATER

A computer doesn't limit you to particular Web sites, services, or apps.



Entertainment Without Boundaries

Unlike a game console or smart device, a computer doesn't limit you to particular Web sites, services, or apps.

- Watch video from any streaming service or site
- Surf the entire Web with your choice of browser
- Enjoy your own videos, photos, and music
- Choose the media player software that's easiest for you to use and navigate
- Easily upgrade to new A/V formats and technologies

Recommended Components

The following are smart things for an HTPC to have. It's easiest to upgrade a desktop computer with some or all of these parts, but options exist for notebooks and AIOs.

- A recent graphics card with HD video and audio support (such as DTS-HD Master Audio bitstreaming)
- A large hard drive for your video, music, and photos, along with any TV shows you record
- A remote and/or a wireless mouse and keyboard
- Gigabit Ethernet or Wi-Fi AC or N for fast video streaming

Step Up To An Incredible Level Of Detail

4K Ultra HD

HDTV revolutionized the world with greater picture detail, a wider screen, and larger screen sizes than old standard-definition TV. Now, with 4K Ultra HD home theater picture quality, history is about to repeat itself.

HOME THEATER

4K Ultra HD
has four times
the level of
detail as
regular
1080p HD.



4K Makes It Sharper

With a 4K Ultra HD TV, you can enjoy digital cinema entertainment that's clearer and more lifelike. The new video standard has four times the level of detail (3,840 x 2,160 pixels) as regular 1080p HD (1,920 x 1,080). 4K is perfectly suited to today's larger TV screen sizes to assure you of a dazzling visual experience. You'll see your favorite movies, sports, digital photos, and other content with more crystal-clear detail than ever before.

Upscale Your Faves

As more and more 4K content emerges, your Ultra HD entertainment opportunities are multiplying. Epic adventures, sci-fi movies, and nature documentaries—not to mention the big game!—all look sharper in ultra-high resolution.

4K Ultra HD TVs and Blu-ray players can even upscale your existing collection of DVDs, Blu-ray Discs, home movies, TV shows, and other video to the 8 million-pixel screen.

New/Upcoming Devices

Once you've seen the breathtaking picture quality of 4K for yourself, you'll want to bring home your very own Ultra HD TV.

One option for feeding your new set with native 4K movie content is an Ultra HD networked media player. Route it to your TV through a 4K passthrough AV receiver, using 4K-compatible HDMI cables, and you're on your way to stunningly high-def visuals.

A/V Receiver Settings May Improve Your HT Audio Use Sound Modes

You can change the way your movies, music, and games sound with your surround sound system's various audio processing modes. This is a look at some of the settings you may encounter, including examples from real-world A/V receivers.

HOME THEATER

Some A/V receivers have special processing modes for compressed media such as MP3 files and YouTube video clips.



By Type Of Audio

Some A/V receivers offer various sound modes for specific types of audio. For instance, its movie settings may give you sound modes for dramas, spectacle blockbusters, and more. Likewise, its music modes may make songs sound like they're being played in an arena, pump up the bass of dance music, and so on.

By Technology

Your receiver might let you choose processing technologies by name. As an example, if your game console produces Dolby Pro Logic II sound, you should set your receiver accordingly. This mode and others, such as DTS Neo, alter movie, music, and game audio to fit the number of speakers you have in your system.

Enhance It

Some A/V receivers have special processing modes for media files that have been heavily compressed, such as MP3 files and YouTube video clips. These enhancement modes try to bring out parts of the audio typically lost in popular compressed file formats, sometimes making it sound better and clearer.

Direct Approach

Of course, the best audio processing just might be none at all. Depending on your speakers, and the sound quality of your media, you might get the best-sounding audio by turning your receiver's sound processing completely off (sometimes called direct mode), especially for Blu-rays and well-mastered DVDs/CDs.

What's The Difference?

HDTV Screen Types

To pinpoint the best type of HDTV for your needs, you should consider the type of content you want to watch and the typical amount of light in the room. Here's a look at each screen technology's strengths and suitabilities.

HOME THEATER



LCD TVs

LCD TVs (liquid-crystal displays) are similar to computer screens, but they're bigger and easier to view at an angle. Traditional LCDs get their light from CCFLs (cold cathode fluorescent lamps).

- Inexpensive
- Thin and lightweight
- Consume a little less power than plasma TVs
- Suitable for rooms with windows

LED TVs

An LED (light-emitting diode) TV is actually a type of LCD TV. Instead of a CCFL backlight, however, its light comes from a panel of LEDs (full-array or full-matrix) or rows of LEDs around the screen (edge-lit).

- Can offer 4K Ultra HD resolution
- Use less electricity than other TVs
- Can be thinner than other TVs
- Rich, detailed dark colors, especially models with local dimming

Plasma TVs

To create images that are colorful, vibrant, and clear, plasma TVs electrically charge small cells that contain ionized gas.

- Deep blacks and rich colors
- Very smooth on-screen motion for sports and action films
- A more cost-efficient technology for large TV screen sizes
- Best viewed in a dark home theater

A Home Theater Helps You Intensify Gameplay

Whether you're dodging bad guys in the desert, racing for the finish line, or simply lining up a chip shot, gaming is meant to be a sensory experience. Enhance your home theater with the right components, and you'll turbocharge your gameplay.

HOME THEATER

Enhance your home theater with the right components, and you'll turbocharge your gameplay.



Get In The Game

Create a more exciting gaming environment by playing on a big screen.

- Add lifelike quality to every game with a big TV or projector screen.
- Make it easy for a large group of players to see a clear picture with a TV that has a wide viewing angle.
- Put on 3D eyewear to play thrilling, three-dimensional games with your compatible TV or projector.

Organize Accessories

Well-designed gaming furniture can keep your gear uncluttered.

- Use a universal storage mount to rack up games and controllers, as well as guitars, steering wheels, gun attachments, and other accessories.
- Organize items for your game console in racks and shelving systems.
- Stow accessories in gaming chairs that include compartments.

Feel Every Sound

Gaming action can sound amazing through surround sound speakers.

- Throw yourself into the game world with a 5.1- or 7.1-channel audio system.
- Feel the thumping beats in sports and action games with a subwoofer.
- Free up more room for motion gaming by mounting your speakers on your walls.

Smart HT Devices Bring Home The Fun

TV Apps

Sights, sounds, and social interaction—that's what you can find with a smart HT device and a broadband connection. A smart TV, Blu-ray player, HTPC, or other device may come with (or let you download) popular apps such as the ones below.

HOME THEATER

Various smart HT devices may support services such as:



Sights, sounds, and social interaction—that's what you can find with a smart home theater device.



Netflix

Tap into this popular subscription service for thousands of streaming, full-length HD movies, TV series, and kids' shows.

YouTube

From the latest viral videos to how-to tutorials, and from documentaries to musical performances, YouTube has it.

Pandora Radio

Internet radio attuned to your personal taste. Enter a favorite song or artist, and Pandora will stream similar music to you.

Facebook

Keep in touch with friends and family members through Facebook. Post status updates, share your pics, and send private messages.

Twitter

Follow your favorite artists, public figures, and breaking news sources. Post brief "tweets" to your own followers.

Skype

With a Web cam/microphone accessory, usually sold separately, you can turn your TV into a futuristic video phone.

Great Audio Intensifies Your HDTV Enjoyment

Budget For Sound

There's no question that a home theater audio system can engage you in your movies and sports in ways that your TV's integrated speakers never could. Here's what you can expect to get for your money at different price levels.

HOME THEATER



High-End Equipment

The best surround-sound systems bring you the state of the art in home theater technology. From the World Wide Web to satellites up in space, they deliver unlimited entertainment.

- Full-range, high-quality speakers
- Internet video/audio, satellite radio
- 9.2- or 7.2-channel audio support with extra surround speakers and/or a second subwoofer

Mid-Priced Audio

At the medium price level, you can purchase an audio system along the following lines.

- A typical HTiB (home theater in a box) with either 5.1-channel or 7.1-channel surround sound
- Features such as 3D video support and/or MP3 player docking
- A soundbar for simulated surround sound and very easy setup

Low-Cost Sound

Entry-level audio options may be modestly priced, but they can give you better sound than your TV speakers.

- A 2.1-channel stereo setup with a subwoofer for deep bass
- An entry-level, basic 5.1-channel surround sound system with a center channel speaker for clearer dialogue
- Wireless streaming to/from compatible speakers and devices

Go Big Before You Go Home

Big TV Advantages

The most obvious advantage of a bigger TV—one with a 60-inch or larger screen size—is the fact that it's, well, big. We'd all love our entertainment to be bigger than life, and for good reasons. Below we cover some of the most compelling ones.

HOME THEATER



Upgrade To 4K

HDTVs with big screens now have a new way to wow you—with the increased sharpness and clarity of 4K Ultra HD. Packing four times the number of pixels (picture elements) of regular 1080p HD, a 4K TV can display unparalleled detail. And at the moment, 4K only comes in bigger screen sizes.

Enjoy It In 3D

The best way to enjoy 3D entertainment is with a big TV. Not only does a large screen have an undeniable presence, but it's also best for your field of vision. Sitting in front of a big 3D HDTV will dominate your view like a movie theater screen. With no prominent screen boundaries, 3D media will take you to a new level of immersion.

Smart TV Features

Smart TV features use Internet connectivity to go beyond what you thought a TV could do. Consider instant connections to your favorite video streaming services and social networking sites, right from your couch. Stream your own music and movies straight from your PC, or even surf the Web on the same, big screen.

Simply In Awe

Fantasy armies clash on horseback, and those horses look life-sized. Lasers sizzle across space in colossal, sci-fi battle. Sports and racing are so in-your-face that you forget that you're sitting in your living room. Imagine the fun of immersing your family in motion gaming with a monster screen and a surround-sound system.

FirstGlimpse

Get The High Picture Quality You Paid For Calibrate Your HDTV

Retail stores may tweak HDTVs' video settings to look their best in a bright, fluorescent-lit environment. Because your home theater's lighting is probably quite different, you need your HDTV professionally calibrated to match its unique setting.

HOME THEATER

With proper calibration to your room's lighting, your HDTV's on-screen images will look more true to life.



Why Have Your TV Calibrated?

- With proper calibration to your room's lighting, the quality of your HDTV's on-screen images will look more true to life. Notably, skin tones and snow scenes won't appear off-color.
- Your TV's contrast will yield brighter whites and darker blacks, letting you see details you wouldn't have noticed before.
- Cable management—which is a part of the professional calibration service—tidies up your home theater setup and makes it easy to identify cable inputs and outputs.

Here's What Will Happen:

- An ISF-certified installer will visit your home and optimize your HDTV's video settings so you can enjoy HD content the way it's intended to look.
- Using professional calibration tools, the installer will adjust video settings to meet ISF standards on two different source inputs.
- To straighten up your home theater's appearance, the installer will dress all cables and wires behind your HDTV.
- The installer can even explain to you any special features or capabilities of your HDTV's remote control.

Why It's Smart To Buy HT Devices In A Store Shop In Person

Certain things are just better to shop for in a real, bricks-and-mortar store. Home theater devices are definitely on this list. Besides the fact that a store has helpful staff to answer your questions, there are many other practical reasons to shop in the real world.

HOME THEATER

Certain things are just better to shop for in a real, bricks-and-mortar store.



HDTVs

You'll spend many hours gazing at your new HDTV, so you'd better be happy with its picture quality before you buy it. An electronics store gives you an opportunity to see a TV's picture first-hand, and to compare it to other models and brands. Moreover, buying locally reduces the chance of damage to the TV in transit.

Speaker Systems

Like a TV, a sound system is another part of your home theater you should try before you buy. An electronics store may let you hear how different speakers sound, as good audio quality is somewhat subjective. You'll also get a feel for how large a subwoofer or floorstanding speaker will seem once you get it home.

Headphones

Comfort is crucial in a pair of home theater headphones, as you'll probably be wearing them for a few hours at a time. As you try on various headphones for fit, you can also get a feel for each pair's sound quality. For wireless 'phones, make sure that their audio doesn't suffer from outside interference.

Other Reasons

The most obvious benefit to shopping locally is the fact that you can often take your purchase home right away instead of waiting for a shipment. Also, more and more states are requiring online retailers to collect sales tax. Add in shipping charges, and buying online may no longer be the money-saving option it once was.

Get The Features You Want Most Blu-ray Player Perks

Amazingly, you can now buy high-end features in even modestly priced Blu-ray Disc players. That said, a more upscale model can ensure that you'll get *all* of the features you're looking for. (Of course, a BD player will also play your collection of DVDs.)

HOME THEATER



Advanced Features

Some Blu-ray players have more advanced capabilities to support 4K Ultra HD, 3D, and more.

- Upscaling to 4K resolution, which has four times the picture detail of Full HD 1080p
- Video phone calling such as Skype
- Support for 3D video content, including conversion of 2D media to in-your-face 3D

Smart Connectivity

- Apps to access online streaming services such as Netflix, Best Buy CinemaNow, Hulu Plus, and more
- Wi-Fi networking (built-in or with an adapter sold separately)
- Can stream audio, photo, and video files that you've stored on your networked PC
- Can play your media files from a USB flash drive or hard drive

Full HD Audio Support

You may already know that Blu-ray video has up to five times more detail than legacy DVD, but are you aware how much better HD audio is? Blu-ray Discs support soundtracks recorded in lossless audio formats, so they sound as amazing as the movie director intended. To make sure that you can enjoy the best sound quality BD has to offer, buy a player that can decode DTS-HD Master Audio and Dolby TrueHD audio formats in full 7.1- or 5.1-channel sound.

How To Get Big Sound In A Small Space

Soundbar Synergy

Your flat-panel HDTV is a streamlined device that can really impress, so why not pair it with a slim soundbar? This sleek speaker bar simulates surround sound from a single unit. A soundbar is easy to set up, and it's a great choice for an oddly shaped or small room.

HOME THEATER



From One, Many

A soundbar looks like an unusually long speaker unit. It's intended to lie horizontally just below or above your HDTV screen. Inside a soundbar cabinet is an array of left, right, and center speakers. Using techniques such as reflecting off your walls, a soundbar can vividly simulate surround sound. In fact, in most cases, it can fool your ears into "hearing" side and rear speakers that aren't there. Many soundbars come with a wired or wireless subwoofer for deep bass.

Zero-Hassle Setup

It's really easy to install a soundbar, especially when you compare it to a traditional, multi-speaker surround-sound system. Connect one or two cables, and you're done. Because a soundbar doesn't require rear or side speakers, you won't need to string speaker wires across your room, tuck them under your baseboards, or route them through your walls. And speaking of your walls, you won't need to drill holes around the room to mount multiple speakers.

Make Any Room An HT

Some rooms just aren't good candidates for a traditional surround-sound setup, which works best when you place its four or six satellite speakers the same distance from your seat. If your home theater is irregularly shaped, or if there's a staircase behind your sofa, it could be difficult to mount surround speakers for optimal audio. A soundbar doesn't have this disadvantage—it can simulate multichannel audio convincingly in most types of rooms.

Enjoy Whole-House Audio Without Cables

Wireless A/V Choices

Your home theater has naturally become the center of entertainment in your household. That said, it's not always easy to run cabling from device A to device B. And what about those times when you want to expand the fun into other rooms?

HOME THEATER



Unleash Your Video

A wireless video (and audio) system lets you play content on one device, but watch (and hear) it on another. It's cable-free, so it will be easy to link devices that would be hard to wire together. A pair of wireless HD adapters can send high-def content from a video source, such as a Blu-ray player, to multiple TVs or a ceiling-mounted digital projector. Likewise, a laptop with wireless HD technology can transmit A/V content to your TV using an adapter.

Broadcast Your Audio

Whole-house audio means that no matter where you are in your home or yard, you can listen to the music, audiobook, sportscast, or other content you want to hear. For example, with wireless audio technology, which is built into select HT audio components and other devices, you can rock your patio barbecue party with a compatible portable speaker. In the same way, some mobile devices can use Bluetooth to send audio to an A/V receiver or a set of headphones.

Fire Up Your Wi-Fi

A wireless router brings the audio and video content of the Internet to your Wi-Fi-capable HDTV, receiver, Blu-ray player, or game console. Online A/V sources include movie streaming services (buy an 802.11ac or 802.11n router for HD support), Internet radio stations, and video sites. A router also connects your networked devices to each other, so you can stream video from your computer to your TV, or audio from a shared storage drive to your A/V receiver.

How To Take Your Home Theater Online

Set Up Smart TV Apps

Smart home theater devices—such as TVs, A/V receivers, and Blu-ray players—come with on-screen apps that let you tap into online services including Netflix, Pandora, and Hulu Plus. Here's what you should know in order to make the connection.

HOME THEATER

Smart TV apps let you tap into online services including Netflix, Pandora, and Hulu Plus.



Lay The Groundwork

If you haven't yet bought a smart device, ask a store associate about specific model capabilities. For example, some older devices might offer only a limited selection of YouTube videos or be unable to display photos in Facebook posts. Speaking of Facebook (and services such as Netflix and Amazon Instant Video), you'll need to have an existing account set up before you can use that app on your TV.

For smooth video streaming from the Internet, a smart home theater device requires a fast link to a broadband connection. In other words, you'll need to connect it to your home network router with Ethernet cable, powerline adapters, or Wi-Fi N or AC (not Wi-Fi G, B, or A).

Enjoy Web Content On The Big Screen

To help your TV or other smart HT device establish communication with your network and the Internet, you may need to adjust the device's network settings using its remote. If you're setting up a Wi-Fi link to your smart device, you'll probably have to enter your network's passphrase. Restart your router, modem, and smart device once or twice to help them recognize each other. Once your smart device detects a connection to the Web, it may begin to update its firmware. Let it do so, and then restart it. Finally, launch an app on your TV using the smart device's remote. If it gives you a short code to enter on a certain Web page, you'll need to do that via a computer. After a few minutes (and perhaps another smart device restart) the app should begin to work.

On-Demand Home Theater Content From The Web Media On Your Time

Home theater connectivity goes beyond the devices you hook up to your HDTV. By supplementing your cable, satellite, or over-the-air programming with what's available via the Web, there's almost no limit to what you can watch, stream, and download.

HOME THEATER

There's almost no limit to what you can watch, stream, and download.



Get Instant Entertainment

- A Web-capable TV, Blu-ray player, or other device can stream media over Wi-Fi or Ethernet.
- Using apps, you can enjoy Internet videos and music, plus news, weather, and social media.
- Some HDTVs and set-top boxes include a full Web browser that's similar to what you'd use on your PC. This lets you access more content than their apps provide.

Make The Most Of Apps

- Not all Web-connected devices offer the same apps, but there's a wide variety to suit your needs.
- Popular media services such as Netflix and Hulu Plus are available on most connected products, but you may need a subscription or pay to watch content.
- Additional apps can connect you to podcasts, Web videos, games, flight information, and Internet radio.

Sound Streamers

- Some home theater audio systems' A/V receiver can connect to satellite or HD radio.
- Listen to any song at any time through your HT speakers with a system that supports Internet radio stations or streaming services.
- Select home theater audio systems can also stream Web videos to your HDTV using pre-installed apps.

The Broad Range Of TV Features

Get The Right HDTV

The phrase "you get what you pay for" rings true when you're shopping for an HDTV. There are plenty of capabilities you may find to be worth a little extra investment. Here's a look at typical high-end, mid-range, and entry-level features.

HOME THEATER

There are plenty of capabilities worth a little extra investment, such as 4K Ultra HD resolution.



Top TVs

- High-end TVs may have 4K Ultra HD resolution—four times the detail of regular HD 1080p
- Smart TV apps for online movies, music, social networking, and more
- 65 inches or larger screens; memory card and USB drive support
- Optimal video technologies such as smooth motion and local LED dimming for higher contrast

Mid-Level Models

- Mid-range TVs may offer built-in or downloadable apps and full Web browsing over Wi-Fi or Ethernet
- At mid-level prices, you can buy an LED TV with edge backlighting and a 120Hz screen refresh rate
- May have enough 1080p inputs to connect a few components, such as a disc player, game console, and set-top box

Entry-Level Entertainment

- Low-cost TVs may have 40-inch or smaller screens and 720p resolution
- They don't offer smart TV apps, 3D, or high LCD/LED refresh rates
- Included video technologies are good, but they don't match the advanced performance of high-end TVs
- LCD and certain plasma TVs can be inexpensive, although they may use more energy than an LED

FirstGlimpse

Leave It To The Professionals TV & HT Services

Here at *First Glimpse*, we try to take the mystery out of shopping for consumer electronics. When it comes to setting those gadgets up, however, our advice is to take advantage of your local electronics store's professional services.

HOME THEATER

Let the pros set up your new TV and other home theater equipment so you can be sure that it's done right.



Installation & Setup

Buying an HDTV is only the first step. Let the pros set up your new TV and other home theater equipment so you can be sure that it's done right. An electronics store's pro services division can mount your flat-panel TV on a wall; set up basic or advanced remotes; connect smart devices to the Internet; mount speakers or a soundbar; and even assemble HT furniture such as a TV stand or entertainment center. Pricing may vary depending on your needs.

TV Calibration

As we mention elsewhere in this issue, it's important to have your HDTV calibrated to get the amazing picture quality you paid for. A calibration professional can adjust your TV's video settings to look their best under the lighting conditions in your home. As a result, onscreen images will appear clearer and more true-to-life. A calibration pro may even organize the cables of your home theater devices to make sure they're neatly routed out of sight.

Product Protection

Your home theater gear may represent a substantial investment. Make sure it's protected by the proper warranty and repair coverage. Your local electronics store may offer repair, replacement, and reinstallation services that can give you peace of mind. Such coverage can help you if your HDTV develops bad pixels or other screen problems, for example, or if a power surge damages your HT devices. Ask whether you can transfer coverage to a new owner, too.

For Movies, TV Shows & Games Anytime

HT Headphones

Ever want to watch something on TV when your roommate is napping, the kids are in bed, or your spouse doesn't want to hear it? Home theater headphones make viewing much more enjoyable than turning on subtitles and turning down the volume.

HOME THEATER

Home theater headphones—wired or wireless—are built for comfort and audio fidelity.



HT Models

Home theater headphones—wired or wireless—are built for comfort and audio fidelity. Wireless models use IR (infrared), RF (radio frequency), or Kleer uncompressed RF technologies. IR units have a reputation for resisting interference, while the two RF technologies may allow you to listen to audio from another room.

Transmitters

Home theater styles of wireless headphones generally come with a transmitter. This AC- or battery-powered unit receives audio from your HT device(s), such as your A/V receiver, and sends it wirelessly to the headphones. Some models support multiple headsets, so several family members can enjoy the same program quietly.

Features

Some transmitters double as docking stations for the headphones, making it easy to recharge their batteries. Speaking of battery life, you want a set of headphones that will last through several movies if necessary. And if you plan to use the headset from a distance, make note of its range for usage, such as 100 feet.

Comfort & Sound

Choose a set of HT headphones that you find comfortable. After all, you don't want to have to take them off halfway through a big game or Harry Potter movie. Likewise, try several models to see which ones sound the best to you. To this end, you'll find that some models employ sound enhancement technologies.

HOME THEATER ACCESSORY



Experience The Excitement Of HD Video & Audio

Blu-ray Disc Players

A Blu-ray Disc player not only plays Blu-ray movies in stunning Full HD 1080p resolution, it also upconverts your DVDs to look great on your HDTV screen. Many models can stream online video from YouTube, Netflix, Best Buy CinemaNow, and other Web services.

Perfect For: Movie buffs seeking to replace their old DVD players and enjoy the visual and audible thrills of HD entertainment.

HOME THEATER ACCESSORY



Make It Easy To Control Your Home Theater

Universal Remotes

A universal remote lets you put all your other remotes away. Rather than rely on multiple remote controls to take command of your various home theater devices, you can streamline your setup with one remote to control them all.

Perfect For: Anyone who wants to enjoy the entertainment potential of a home theater, but doesn't need the complexity or confusion of two or more remotes to run an HDTV, set-top box, Blu-ray Disc player, and so on.

HOME THEATER ACCESSORY



Protect Your Home Theater Investment

Surge Protectors & Power Conditioners

With a surge protector, you can guard your home theater devices from damage caused by electrical fluctuations. Further, a power conditioner will filter out "dirty power" (also known as electrical interference) that can degrade your audio and video.

Perfect For: Anyone who wants to safeguard their HDTV, sound system, game console, DVR, set-top box, Blu-ray Disc player, or home theater PC from power damage.

HOME THEATER ACCESSORY



Hang Your TV On The Wall For Viewing Flexibility

Wall Mounts

One of the attractions of a flat-panel HDTV is the fact that you can hang it on your wall. With a wall mount, you may be able to tilt your TV for an optimum viewing angle, get rid of your old TV stand or entertainment center, and reclaim some floor space.

Perfect For: Flat-panel TV owners who would like to take advantage of the modern home theater layout possibilities that a thin HDTV provides.

Home Theater Q&A

Cover The Basics

Creating the ideal home theater isn't a complicated process when you already know the answers to your biggest questions. In that vein, here's some information about home theater products and technologies that should help you make informed decisions.

HOME THEATER



What are the advantages of a 4K TV?

A 4K Ultra HD TV has four times the number of pixels (picture elements) as a 1080p HDTV. The more pixels, the finer the detail the screen can display. 4K TVs can upscale your existing movies, TV shows, sports, and photos, but more and more content in amazingly crisp native 4K is being released.

What do I need to connect my Internet-capable TV and other smart devices to the Web?

You need broadband service, a good router—preferably one with Gigabit Ethernet and Wi-Fi AC or N support—and possibly Wi-Fi or Ethernet adapters for your Internet-ready HT components. Use Ethernet cable, Wi-Fi, or a powerline kit to connect devices to the router.



How can I enjoy my home theater without disturbing others?

A pair of comfortable headphones should do the trick. Wireless headphones that use Kleer, RF, or IR technologies can be even more convenient for movies and games.

What does a surround-sound system include?

Home theater sound systems generally include an A/V receiver, which sends audio to the speakers and your choice of video source to the TV. Typically, they also come with a subwoofer for rich bass, a center channel speaker to emphasize dialogue, and a number of satellite (surround) speakers you can mount around the room. You can buy each component separately, or get a package deal with an HTiB (home theater in a box). Full-range speakers will produce the best sound.



What do speaker system numbers such as 5.1 and 7.1 mean?

These numbers describe the number of speakers (channels) the system supports, as in 5.1- or 7.1-channel. The ".1" part indicates one subwoofer, while the "5" or "7" represents the even number of satellite speakers plus the single center channel unit.

Glossary

Home Theater

Don't let unfamiliar jargon keep you from the thrills and excitement of your very own home theater. Before you shop, glance through this handy glossary for definitions of common terms.

HOME THEATER

#

4K

A new, Ultra High-Definition video format with four times the detail of Full HD 1080p. 4K typically has a resolution of 3,840 x 2,160 pixels.

5.1/7.1-channel

These describe the number of speakers in a surround sound system. A 5.1 setup, for example, has four satellites (surround speakers), a center channel, and a subwoofer (.1).

720p/1080i/1080p

These high-definition video formats are named for the height of the picture, namely 720 (1,280 x 720 pixels) and 1,080 (1,920 x 1,080).

A

A/V receiver

An audio amplifier that powers speakers and also acts as a video switch to select the source device shown on your TV.

aspect ratio

How wide a TV screen is compared to its height. HDTVs typically have a 16:9 aspect ratio, such as 1,920 x 1,080 pixels, to accommodate the wide aspect ratios of movies.

D

Dolby/DTS

Blu-ray discs and DVDs use audio formats from Dolby and DTS.

H

HDMI

The High-Definition Multimedia Interface is a type of cable connection that can carry both HD video and multichannel audio between your HDTV, receiver, and other components.

L

LCD

A liquid-crystal display TV uses an electrically sensitive gel to regulate pixels of color in front of a backlight. LCDs are lighter and more energy-efficient than plasma TVs, and also produce less heat. LCDs are also better suited to brighter rooms.

LED TV

This is an LCD that uses light-emitting diodes for backlight instead of CCFLs (cold cathode fluorescent lamps). This makes LED TVs, or LED-LCDs, more energy efficient than traditional LCDs and especially plasmas. Edge-lit models

have their LEDs arranged along the screen edges, while full-array or full-matrix models are backlit by a panel of LEDs. TVs with local dimming can turn down or mask parts of the backlight for high contrast.

P

plasma

Plasma TVs use tiny capsules of gas for each pixel, and electricity makes each capsule glow. Plasmas create very deep, dark colors (high contrast), in which black parts of the picture look truly black instead of gray. Sometimes plasmas produce brighter colors than traditional LCDs and have slightly better viewing angles.

S

smart device

A smart TV (or receiver, or game console, or Blu-ray player) can go online, such as to stream video.

U

Ultra HD

Another name for 4K video. UHD is intended to maintain incredible picture detail even on larger HDTV and projector screen sizes.

Camera Features

You Should Know

Your next digital camera could be much more fulfilling with just a few key features. Don't worry; we're here to help. Here's a camera shopping primer.

DIGITAL IMAGING

Your next digital camera could be much more fulfilling with just a few key features.



Wireless Photo & Video Transfers

Many cameras and camcorders now come with Wi-Fi support, which can make it much easier for you to preserve and share your memories. For example, your cam might automatically upload your photos and videos to your computer or a Web site without a cable.

Touchscreen Display

It's much easier to capture those fleeting moments when you don't have to stop and navigate your camera's menu settings. Cameras that have touchscreen displays deliver intuitive control with icons and gestures such as pinching your fingers together to zoom.

Dual Image Stabilization

How often do you carry around a tripod? Truth is, we shoot the vast majority of our photos with a handheld camera. To ensure you take crisp looking images, a camera with dual-image stabilization will optically and digitally steady your shots to prevent blur caused by camera shake.

Face Detection Technology

Say cheese. . . People's faces are the most important elements in our photos. As such, a camera with face detection technology uses the faces of friends and loved ones as reference points when it automatically sets its focus and exposure settings. This ensures that everyone looks their best.

Make The Most Of Your Captured Memories

Convert Old Media

We all have cherished family photos taken years before the popularity of digital cameras. Don't let those memories lie unremembered in a storage box—use a scanning device to digitize those photos, slides, and negatives so you can print and share them for years to come.

DIGITAL IMAGING

An all-in-one printer can tackle a variety of media tasks in addition to photo scanning.



Scan Memories

A photo scanner simplifies the conversion of photo prints to digital image files. Simply insert a photo print, and the scanner will save it as a digital file on a memory card. From there, you can edit or add special effects to the files using media editing software on your computer or pop the SD card into a digital photo frame to instantly enjoy a slideshow display. Some models can also digitally convert photo slides and negatives so you can back up your entire collection for the future.

Print, Copy & Scan

An all-in-one printer can tackle a variety of media tasks in addition to photo scanning. Not only can you convert photo prints into digital files, but you'll also be able to instantly make copies and print borderless images in seconds in addition to handling your everyday document needs. Many AIO printers have LCDs that let you edit and preview your images before printing them, and some models have built-in memory card slots so you can print without using a computer.

Media Services

Time, heat, and humidity can wreak havoc on print photos, VHS tapes, and film reels. If you don't want to deal with the time-consuming endeavor of converting old media to digital files, there are services that can handle the process for you. Often, all you need to do is gather your old media, put it in a box, and ship it to a facility that will digitally convert everything. And to ensure your memories last for years to come, these service providers can also back up your files on a DVD or portable hard drive.

Get More Creative Photo Results With Flashes & Filters

Flashes and filters are two camera accessories that can either add or block light to help you achieve particular photo results. While a flash can help evenly light settings, a filter can enhance colors, boost contrast, and more.

DIGITAL IMAGING



Light Up The Darkness

A flash gives you better control of your lighting conditions when you take photos, particularly when you can direct the angle of the flash. By adding an external flash to your camera, you can cast indirect light onto your subject by reflecting it off a ceiling or a bounce card. Indirect illumination casts softer shadows and looks more like natural light.

A quality external camera flash can adequately light your subjects from a distance so that their faces don't look too dark. More specifically, a dedicated camera flash can offset shadows caused by sunlight above or behind someone's face. Your smartphone's built-in camera flash may not be powerful enough to illuminate these types of dark areas.

Good Light In, Bad Light Out

UV filters can protect your camera's image sensor and improve photo quality by getting rid of the bluish haze caused by ultraviolet light. Other filter types offer different benefits. For example, a circular polarized filter can reduce white glare and enhance your subject's color and contrast. It will also eliminate reflections from non-metallic surfaces.

Some filters add enhancements that can make images appear almost magical. For instance, a diffusion filter can soften edges or blur the background to change the aesthetics of a still image. And for a truly unique result, an 8-point star filter can make celestial rays of light emanate from reflections and other light sources.

See What You're Shooting With Camera Displays

The invention of the camera display—that little video monitor on the back of your camera—is one of the most welcome innovations in all of digital photography. There are various types to choose from, and each delivers useful and unique benefits.

DIGITAL IMAGING

Touchscreens can eliminate the need for menu navigation buttons on the back of a camera, allowing the display itself to be larger.



LCD & OLED

Two of the most common types of displays are LCD (liquid-crystal display) and OLED (organic light-emitting diode); the former is the more common of the two. OLEDs offer better black levels and contrast as well as a better viewing angle. They also tend to add cost to a camera, so cameras with LCDs are usually less expensive.

Touchscreen

These days touchscreens are common on many devices, including some digital cameras. Touchscreens can eliminate the need for menu navigation buttons on the back of a camera, thus allowing the display itself to be larger. Some cameras even enable on-screen actions such as cropping, so you can quickly edit your shots.

Tilt & Swivel

Commonly found on handheld digital camcorders, the tilt and swivel display has made its way to some digital cameras. Select models can tilt their display 45 or more degrees, rotate out 180 degrees from the camera body, and even twist and flip so you can see yourself as you take a self-portrait.

3D

Yes, certain cameras have 3D camera displays. A 3D model has a pair of lenses that function in a similar way to our human binocular vision—they take images from slightly different angles simultaneously, and the camera combines them to form a 3D image. A camera's display can use the same technique so you can view 3D snapshots.

Cameras Built For Easy Web Sharing

By selecting a camera with Web-friendly features, you can streamline the process of editing, uploading, and sharing your photos with friends and family. Here's a look at what some of those features are and how they can benefit you.

DIGITAL IMAGING

A camera with Web-friendly features streamlines the process of editing, uploading, and sharing your photos.



Tag & Organize

After you snap a group of pictures, some cameras let you use built-in tools to tag the shots you'd like to share online later. Certain models also let you categorize your images into different folders, right there on the camera. When you're done, you're ready to connect your camera to your computer for the transfer process.

Auto Upload

Plug your Web-friendly camera into your PC's USB port, and its automatic transfer features can kick in. Depending on its capabilities, it may automatically upload your pics to your Facebook, Flickr, Picasa, or other account, and/or copy your images to your computer in the folders you specified on the camera.

Share Wirelessly

Some digital cameras let you skip your PC altogether. These models can use Wi-Fi and/or Bluetooth to let you wirelessly share your photos and videos directly from your camera. Features vary, but different models can wirelessly send your files to social networking sites, email addresses, your phone, your computer, and more.

Edit & Format

Many cameras let you remove red-eye and do other light editing such as cropping, but some models empower you with even more advanced tools. For instance, some digicams let you adjust the aspect ratio (height/width) of images to meet the upload requirements of blogs or social networking Web sites.

From Your Camera To The Big Screen Photos On Your TV

We snap a ton of digital photos and video, but we don't tend to look at our media very often. When we do, it's usually on the small screen of a computer or phone. Why not put your photos and video on a big HDTV for the entire family to enjoy?

DIGITAL IMAGING

You may be able to plug your camera or camcorder into your TV's HDMI port to show off its media.



Cable It In

If your camera came with a mini HDMI to HDMI cable, you may be able to plug it directly into your TV or A/V receiver's HDMI port to show off its media.

You can also use an HDMI cable to connect your TV to your computer, which offers a variety of ways to display your images.

Get Carded

If your TV, receiver, Blu-ray player, or other HT device has a memory card slot, such as for your camera's SD card, it might be able to play a slideshow of the JPEG or other image (and video) files stored on the card. If your camera uses a tiny card format such as microSD, you may need to use an inexpensive adapter.

Use USB

Many game consoles, HDTVs, and other devices come with a USB port or two. Some are nothing more than firmware update ports, but many recent devices let you display certain photo files from your USB flash drive or external hard drive. (Drives with the FAT32 file system are more likely to be compatible.)

Make Slideshows

With photo or video editing software, you can use your computer to create a DVD slideshow of your favorite images, complete with transitions, titles, and music.

For sharper results with your HDTV and Blu-ray player, tell the software to write the DVD as an AVCHD disc.

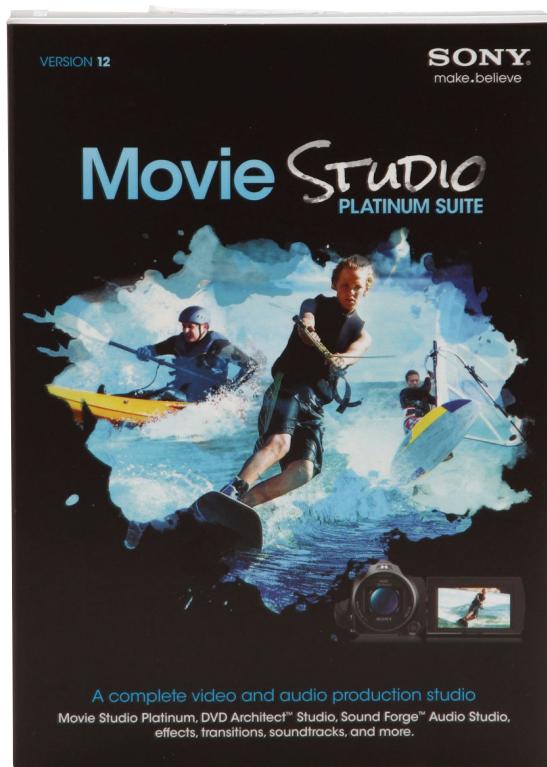
Get The Editing Tools You Need In One Package

Media Software

Whether you want to spruce up special moments, create art, or tell stories, photo- and video-editing software gives you the tools to transform your photos and video into a variety of creative projects. Some apps even help you organize the images you capture.

DIGITAL IMAGING

Photo- and video-editing software gives you the tools to transform your photos and video into a variety of creative projects.



Edit For Perfection

Basic photo-editing programs can correct color, reduce red-eye, and resize images, while more advanced titles include tools to fine tune almost any aspect of an image. Video-editing software lets you cut and rearrange video clips, add transitions and titles, and output your project as a format suitable for disc, Web, or mobile devices.

If you want to edit both photos and video, look for software that can handle either type of media.

Organize Your Media

Your digital library can grow exponentially when you add images from important events, such as a family reunion. To simplify the process of uploading hundreds of images to your computer, many editing programs will let you preview shots so you can tag and name them quickly. This helps you easily find the images you're looking for in the future. Many media organization programs can also sort files by date and create dedicated folders and albums.

Create Something New

Calendars, slideshows, greeting cards, albums, and brochures—the project options for your captured memories are practically limitless with media editing software. You can share digital projects online, and many media suites offer built-in features to upload files to social networking and media Web sites such as Facebook, YouTube, or Picasa. Finally, you can often export your results as files that you can view and share on mobile devices, such as tablets and smartphones.

Choose From DSLR Or Compact System Models

Advanced Cameras

DSLR (digital single-lens reflex) cameras and compact system cameras share an important difference from pocket-sized point-and-shoots: You can change their lenses for different photographic situations. Read on to discover which of these cameras may be right for you.

DIGITAL IMAGING

You can change DSLR and compact system camera lenses for different photographic situations.



DSLRs: The Professional's Choice

Picture a photographer covering sports, nature, celebrities, or news. The camera in her hands is likely a DSLR.

Like the SLR film cameras that preceded it, a DSLR has a moving mirror assembly inside it. It lets you see exactly what the lens sees when you look through the viewfinder. Press the shutter button, however, and the mirror pivots aside with a "click" to expose a large image sensor.

Besides interchangeable lenses, DSLRs are known for their high image quality in both photos and video. You'll get amazing color and clarity, along with a hot shoe for a flash attachment and advanced automatic and manual settings.

CS Cams: DSLR Benefits, Smaller Size

A compact system camera aims for the middle ground between DSLRs and point-and-shoot cameras. Its purpose is to give you image quality and versatility like a DSLR, but in a much trimmer, slimmer package. A CS camera can be less bulky than a DSLR because it leaves out the moving mirror.

Like a DSLR's, a CS camera's large image sensor gathers more light with less electronic noise than a point-and-shoot's tiny sensor. You'll be able to shoot very clean, lifelike pics and video in automatic mode, but you'll also have a broad range of manual settings. Also like a DSLR, a compact system model has a hot shoe and a mount for telephoto, wide-angle, and other lenses.

The Best In Digital Imaging To Capture Sports

In sports settings, you have very specific things to photograph in very little time. Whether you want to shoot your own water skiing adventures or snap photos of friends during a road race, here are your best options to freeze those competitive moments.

DIGITAL IMAGING



For Adventurers

Extreme sport lovers need a camera that can keep up with their lifestyles. A wearable camera can stay out of the way, yet capture images and footage of your thrill-seeking adventures. Multiple attachments are available to suit a variety of shooting needs and sports, including helmet, chest, bicycle, and wrist strap mounts as well as water-resistant housings. Most models can record 1080p HD video, so you'll be able to revisit the action with professional-quality footage and images.

For Faraway Action

Pairing your DSLR or compact system camera with a telephoto lens will bring distant subjects close within your view. So, if you're sitting several rows back at your son's football game, you can easily snap clear, up-close shots that look like they were taken from the sideline. Telephoto lenses offer different focal length ranges, but it's likely that a lens that's at least 70mm will be sufficient for your photography of distant subjects.

For Spectators

It's not convenient to carry a large camcorder to a sporting event, especially if you need to squeeze into a crowded stand. An alternative is an ultra-portable, shoot-and-share camcorder you can slip into a purse or coat pocket and pull out to record footage of your child's soccer game or karate match. Most shoot and share camcorders can capture 1080p HD video and feature other useful technologies such as digital image stabilization and auto focus.

Get The Capacity & Speed You Need Memory Card Specs

When you shop for a memory card, you should pay attention to two things: capacity and speed. Depending on your needs, one may be more important than the other. Here we'll help you determine the size and speed of a memory card that's right for you.

DIGITAL IMAGING

A card with a faster speed is ideal for action photos because you won't have to wait as long between shots.



Capacity

- A person who takes hundreds of shots at one time, such as a family shutterbug or a prosumer photographer, is more apt to need a large capacity memory card (32GB or more) than someone who only takes a few photos.
- Videos require more memory card capacity than images, but the amount of footage you can record varies widely due to a card's capacity and the quality level of your video (standard definition, 720p, or 1080p).
- For shooting HD video, an 8GB or 16GB card will be enough for a half hour of footage. If you choose a lower capacity, you may need to swap in fresh cards more often.

Speed

- A memory card's maximum transfer rate typically determines how quickly your camera will be able to take another photo. A card with a faster speed is ideal for action photos because you won't wait as long between shots.
- In terms of video, the sustained write rate of a memory card is more important than the maximum speed rating because the card must constantly record video data to the card.
- SD cards have a sustained speed rating, such as Class 2, Class 4, and Class 6. The number in the rating indicates the speed in MBps at which the card can save video. A higher number is better; an HD camera requires at least Class 4.

Items Your New Camera Will Need

Digital Imaging Extras

The right camera or camcorder accessories will help you get the shots you want when opportunities happen. Here are some must-have products that can keep your digital imaging device ready to capture clear, sharp memories.

DIGITAL IMAGING



Memory Cards

Keep spare memory cards on hand so you can snap away without having to worry about running out of storage space. Consider buying several memory cards with smaller capacities instead of one card with a larger capacity; that way, if something goes wrong with one card, you'll still have a fallback option.

Spare Batteries

Make sure you're never caught without the power needed to capture the perfect moment. Keep at least one fully charged spare battery in your camera bag. Also, a 12V vehicle battery charger will give you the flexibility to power up your camera batteries anywhere you're headed, even if you're traveling.

Store & Protect

A protective case keeps your camera or camcorder safe from bumps, scrapes, and even light moisture.

A form-fitting case is great for a point-and-shoot camera. For larger cams, buy a camera bag with pockets for spare batteries, memory cards, extra lenses, and more.

Use A Tripod

A tripod keeps your camera steady while you're shooting close-up or distance shots, which can prevent photo blurring. It also lets you use your camera's timer to snap group portraits.

A tripod is also key to recording steady video. It can smooth out panning and tilting shots, too.

Take Better Pictures With Camera Lenses

Your DSLR or compact system camera probably came bundled with a good lens for all-around use. A sound reason to consider buying another lens is because it will help your camera take much better pictures in certain situations.

DIGITAL IMAGING



Telephoto & Macro Lenses

Athletes, musicians, and wildlife are usually far away from you when they're doing something photogenic. With a telephoto lens, you can "zoom in" on the action and make it seem much closer.

Also called a zoom lens, a telephoto uses a series of carefully matched optics to magnify the image your camera sees. Many telephotos let you adjust their magnification, so you can zoom out for closer subjects.

Speaking of closer subjects, if you want to photograph items close-up, a macro lens can help you focus.

Wide-Angle & Fisheye Lenses

It's hard to capture the majestic expanse of a landscape with a standard lens. Likewise, in a small room, it's hard to include everyone in a group photo. You simply can't back up far enough to squeeze in those people on the edges.

A wide-angle lens can handle the squeezing for you. A wide-angle is a mild version of a "fisheye" lens. It's designed to widen your shot without distorting the image.

You can get stronger image correction with a super wide-angle lens. A fisheye lens can broaden your shot even more, but it will make straight lines appear noticeably curved.

Get The Best Image Results Every Time

Scene Settings

A lot goes into shooting great photos: lighting, exposure, balance, composition, and more. Because many digital cameras have special scene settings, you don't have to be an expert to achieve photographic excellence.

DIGITAL IMAGING

Scene settings adjust all of the camera's variables to best capture specific types of shots.



Always The Best Results

Scene settings (sometimes called scene modes) adjust all of the camera's variables to best capture specific types of shots: evening photos, action-packed sports, and more. Most cameras offer basic scene modes for portraits, landscapes, and night shots. But many offer more sophisticated settings to take specialty photos, such as fireworks, kids and pets, or sports. While you concentrate on getting the picture you want, a camera with scene settings will take care of the technical details.

Automatic Advantages

Of course, you can capture great images by using your camera's manual settings; experienced photographers have been doing that for years. Manual settings do require that you constantly adjust your camera as you're shooting, however. While an expert can certainly do that, most of us beginner or intermediate photographers would like the option of having the camera adjust itself, while we just point the camera and wait for the best shot.

Change Scenes Quickly

If you only shot one type of photo, scene modes wouldn't matter much; it's easy enough to set a camera for one type of shot. But because you'll snap photos in a number of different circumstances—such as your nephew on the soccer field, an indoor arena, a sunrise at the beach, or a candid indoor portrait—you'll appreciate the flexibility and ease of use that special scene settings add to your photographic repertoire.

Buy What You Really Want With Financing For DI

Many photographers want a high-quality lens or more powerful camera, but they balk at the premium cost. If you can't afford upfront costs today, you can take advantage of in-store financing to take home the equipment you used to dream about.

DIGITAL IMAGING



Sign Up For A Card

CE retailers offer monthly financing so you can pay in small increments for your purchase, rather than a huge lump sum. This option is often available when you sign up for an in-store credit card. By making this small commitment, you'll be able to take your new digital imaging item home and use it right away.

Choose A Finance Plan

If you don't have the funds to pay now, you can often choose a long-term financing plan that lasts anywhere from six to 36 months. (The total cost of your purchase may determine which payment plan you're eligible for.) In general, annual financing fees are waived if you pay with your in-store credit card.

Bypass Interest Payments

You really can take home that feature-packed HD camcorder you've been eyeing, without paying interest. You don't have to compromise your long-term financial goals, either. Pay off your balance by the end of your financing term (and don't miss any monthly payments), and your cam will be interest-free.

Get Rewards For Purchases

An in-store credit card goes beyond a spending account. As a cardholder, you're also eligible for exclusive discounts and events, plus extended return policies. And with every purchase you make, you can earn points toward gift certificates you can use in-store or online.

Optical vs. Digital Zoom

Take A Closer Look

When you're shopping for a camera or camcorder, you'll notice that most models feature both an optical zoom and digital zoom. It's important to understand the difference between these two types of zoom and how they affect image quality.

DIGITAL IMAGING

Optical zoom
delivers
sharper and
smoother
results than
digital zoom.



Optical Zoom

- This type of zoom only uses the camera's lenses (optics) to magnify your view
- The camera lens physically moves in order to magnify the subject so that it appears closer
- When a camera uses optical zoom, it will snap an image utilizing its maximum amount of pixels and visual detail
- You may notice that optical zoom delivers sharper and smoother results than digital zoom
- The higher the optical zoom number (such as 10X or 40X), the better

Digital Zoom

- This feature launches after you've zoomed in as far as you can with a camera's optical zoom
- Digital zoom may appear to zoom in closer, but it's only enlarging the center of your image
- As the camera digitally magnifies your image, it inserts pixels to smooth out jagged edges
- Image results may appear softer, and individual pixels are likely to be noticeable when you enlarge your picture
- Digital zoom can degrade image quality, so it's better to base a purchase decision on optical zoom

Get The Most From Your Digital Imaging Devices

Pro Camera Services

Digital cameras and camcorders revolutionized the way we record and share our memories. That said, there's a learning curve, and everyone can use some help when a cam is unfamiliar or not working correctly. Your local electronics store can help.

DIGITAL IMAGING

Everyone can use some help when a camera is unfamiliar or not working correctly.



Basic Training

Some store services can help you learn how to use your camera, such as by remote video chat. They can:

- teach you how to take photos and video, and to set up any included software on your computer
- show you how to transfer photos and videos to your PC and online
- explain how to do basic photo editing such as red-eye removal

Repair & Recover

Cameras and camcorders are precision instruments, so it's good to know that your local electronics store may offer repair services that can bring your damaged cam back to life. More importantly, an in-store data recovery service can extract many deleted photos and videos from your camera and memory cards. The pros can even retrieve your one-of-a-kind memories from damaged devices and storage media in some cases.

Protect Your Investment

Pro services may offer additional protection for your camera, covering:

- mishaps such as drops, spills, and power surges
- battery replacement
- firmware updates
- cleaning
- pixel problems

Shoot Better Photographs In Low-Light Settings

At wedding receptions and other social gatherings, many of the best unstaged photo opportunities happen when the lights are turned down. With the right equipment, you can take better pictures in difficult lighting situations.

DIGITAL IMAGING

With the right equipment, you can take better pictures in difficult lighting situations.



Make The Most Of Existing Light

Pros and advanced photographers often adjust their camera settings manually when good lighting is scarce. They use slower shutter speeds to give their cameras time to gather more ambient light, and tripods to avoid motion while the shutter is open. To capture fast action without blurring, they use higher ISO settings.

That said, most of us rely on our camera's automatic settings, so it's not out of bounds to say that buying a good camera is your primary step toward shooting better low-light images. You'll want to look for an upscale model with a high-quality image sensor, smart automatic settings, and optical image stabilization.

Flash Photography Benefits

The more light illuminating your subject, the quicker your camera will be able to gather the light necessary for a photo with little or no visual noise (graininess). Autofocus will also work better with more light. Some cameras' fill flash settings produce great images without washing out the subject or darkening the surroundings. Others can benefit from an electronic flash accessory, one with a fast recycle time for quicker follow-up shots. If the flash is too harsh, you can dial down its intensity or attach a diffuser accessory to it. You might also bounce the light off a photographic reflector or use a mounted lamp in a softbox. Flashes use more energy, of course, so remember to bring along a few extra batteries in case you need them.

High-End, Mid-Level & Basic Camcorders

In a world where even your cell phone captures HD video, is there still a need for a camcorder? Yes, there is—in fact, now more than ever. When you watch on your HDTV or share it online, video quality matters, and a camcorder is the best way to get it.

DIGITAL IMAGING



High-End Cams

Only the best lenses and image sensors need apply here. For shooting in low light or other challenging conditions, you'll get the best results with a top-shelf camcorder. They're made to wring the best video possible out of difficult shooting environments, so you can imagine how rich and clear their footage can be under decent lighting. Some high-end models can even shoot 3D video in HD, such as with an optional dual-lens attachment.

Mid-Level Models

A mid-range camcorder typically has a larger image sensor than a basic camcorder. A bigger sensor can capture more of the light coming through the lens (which may also be larger and higher in quality in a mid-level camcorder). This means that the picture will contain less electronic "noise," so you'll get cleaner and sharper picture detail. Mid-range camcorders can also shoot in HD video formats, which is a feature not every entry-level camcorder can claim.

Basic Camcorders

Even entry-level video cameras can often record better images than a typical camera phone. Most camcorders come with a bigger lens, for instance, and that lens is higher in quality. Also, many basic camcorders capture sharper close-ups thanks to their optical zoom capability, which is one thing camera phones generally lack. It's often easier to swap memory cards in a camcorder, too, and it's more comfortable to hold one for a long shoot.

DIGITAL IMAGING ACCESSORY



Continue To Capture Cherished Memories

Extra Batteries

You won't miss special moments such as your son's baseball game or baby's first steps if you keep a spare camera battery on hand. While it's convenient to be able to recharge a battery, that isn't the case when you're short on time. It's a good idea to have a fully charged backup so you don't miss any action.

Perfect For: Shooting photos or video at special events with limited interruption.

DIGITAL IMAGING ACCESSORY



Get The Right Capacity, Speed & Class

Memory Cards

Not all memory cards are created equal. Their differences in capacity and class (write speed) both have a bearing on what they can do and, therefore, which one you'll want for your camera. To get the right card for your image or video recording needs, speak with a sales associate at your local CE retailer.

Perfect For: Capturing special moments that a slower or smaller memory card might cause you to miss.

DIGITAL IMAGING ACCESSORY



Protect Your Digital Imaging Investment

Camera & Camcorder Cases

To protect your camera or camcorder, you need a case that offers the best in screen protection, comfort, durability, and accessibility. Cases range in style and size to fit your lifestyle. Features can include impact- and water-resistance, soft interior linings, and pockets to keep a spare battery or memory card on hand.

Perfect For: Those who want to organize accessories and make their digital imaging device last for years to come.

DIGITAL IMAGING ACCESSORY



Shoot Crisp & Level Images Every Time

Tripods

Can any of us really say that we can hold a camera as steadily as we'd like to? Probably not. A tripod solves this issue, as it's sturdy enough to hold the weight of your camera or camcorder and comes equipped with a three-way pan/tilt head that lets you fluidly follow subjects.

Perfect For: Keeping everything within frame level when you shoot portraits, horizons, and more. A tripod also prevents image blur when shooting in dimly-lit settings.

Digital Imaging Q&A

Cover The Basics

It's exciting to discover the new capabilities appearing in digital cameras and camcorders, although the related terminology can be a little confusing at first. Here's the scoop on some features you can use to capture and share memories better than before.

DIGITAL IMAGING



What is the difference between a compact system camera and a DSLR?

Compact systems share many of the traits of a DSLR, such as the abilities to capture high-quality images and swap lenses. However, where they differ is in size and internal components. A compact system camera lacks a pivoting mirror mechanism and an optical viewfinder, so its body is typically smaller than a DSLR.

What is the benefit of a camera with a touchscreen?

A touchscreen lets you choose menu settings, so it can take the place of menu buttons (and therefore give you a bigger screen). You can also tap the screen to focus on a particular spot and take a picture.



Are there compact camera models that pack big zoom capabilities?

Yes. For example, some compact cameras offer up to a 50X optical zoom so you can get up close to subjects even when you're far away. A cam with an optical image stabilizer can ensure that your zoomed-in images remain crisp and detailed.

Are durable cameras only for athletic and outdoor users?

Not at all. They're ideal for sports, hiking, and so on, but parents can benefit from them because they're more kid-proof than ordinary digital cameras. For instance, they can withstand sticky hands and beverage spills, drops (accidental and otherwise), and nights they're absent-mindedly left outdoors.



What does Wi-Fi add to a camera?

A camera or flash memory card with built-in wireless support can automatically transfer your photos and videos to your PC, a photo sharing site, or a social network when you're in range of a known Wi-Fi hotspot. This not only saves you the time you'd spend uploading your media, it also makes an immediate backup of your pics and videos.

Glossary

Digital Imaging

There's a lot of lingo to wade through as you shop for a new camera or camcorder. To help you find a device that best suits your photo or video needs, here are the definitions of terms you're likely to run into.

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B

burst mode

This mode lets you capture several consecutive photos by pressing the shutter button only once. It's ideal for fast-moving subjects, such as athletes.

C

compact system camera

Smaller than a DSLR, but larger than a point-and-shoot, a CS cam lets you change its lenses like a DSLR.

D

digital zoom

Magnifies an image by cropping it and smoothing jagged edges with interpolated pixels. This degrades picture quality, so never buy a camera based on its high digital zoom rating.

DSLR

A digital single-lens reflex camera is a larger model with interchangeable lenses, a big image sensor, an optical viewfinder, and internal differences.

I

image sensor

The chip that turns light into electronic signals to make a digital photo

or video. Larger sensors take better images, all else being equal.

ISO

A digital camera's ISO setting measures its current sensitivity to light. A cam capable of using higher ISOs, such as 6400 (equivalent to a fast film speed), can take low-light photos in less time (a shorter exposure).

M

megapixel (MP)

Approximately 1 million pixels. The higher a photo's MP count, the higher the resolution, which means you can create larger prints (or crop for smaller ones) with better quality.

O

optical image stabilization

A mechanical method of eliminating camera shake (and thus photo blur) during zoomed-in, handheld shooting. It's generally superior to digital IS.

optical zoom

The camera's mechanical ability to move the lens to enlarge a subject. The higher the number (such as 5X or 10X), the more powerful the zoom. When choosing a camera, always consider its optical zoom capability, not its digital zoom.

P

point-and-shoot

A slim, pocket-sized camera that's easy to use, typically with a non-removable lens.

R

resolution

The number of pixels in an image, such as 2,272 x 1,704 or 10 megapixels. The higher the resolution, the more detail and quality in a photo.

T

telephoto lens

A "zoom" lens that makes distant subjects appear closer.

W

wide-angle lens

A lens that can include more of a scene at a given distance. Extreme wide-angle lenses are called fisheyes.

Wireless/Wi-Fi (camera)

When you're near a friendly wireless network or hotspot, a Wi-Fi camera can automatically upload your photos and videos to a PC, storage device, or Web site.

Laptop When You Need It, Tablet When You Want It

2-in-1 Devices

Lean forward and work, lean back and relax—but only ever carry one device. Combining the amazing performance of its Intel Core processors with all the mobility of a tablet, Intel offers a versatile laptop-meets-tablet device called a 2-in-1.

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Lenovo Ideapad Yoga 11S

SKU: 9026045



Dell XPS 12 Convertible Ultrabook

SKU: 7617041



HP Split x2 Home Notebook PC

SKU: 9432051



Acer Aspire R7 Notebook

SKU: 8924136

Get A Tablet And A Laptop In One Device

You no longer have to choose between buying a laptop or a tablet: Intel-based 2-in-1s give you the benefits of both. A 2-in-1 computer can lie flat, so you can have a tabletop touchscreen to collaborate with your colleagues or play games with your family. And yet, when you need a keyboard for touch typing, a 2-in-1's laptop mode puts the power of the written word at your fingertips. The screen tilts for easy reading, too.

What Your 2-in-1 Can Do

The tablet capabilities of a 2-in-1 let you explore an app-based ecosystem using a highly responsive touchscreen, just as you would on a standard tablet. Moreover, long battery life will give you the power you need to get more done while you're on-the-go. When you require the robust performance of a laptop, you can rely on a 2-in-1 to run full-featured PC applications, support multiple peripheral devices, and handle demanding multitasking.

Full Software Support

Enjoy running these key applications on 2-in-1 devices:

- Adobe Photoshop, Roxio Creator, and Cyberlink PowerDirector
- Productivity programs such as Quickbooks
- iTunes and other syncing programs
- Millions of existing Windows-based apps

What's The Latest In Desktop PCs?

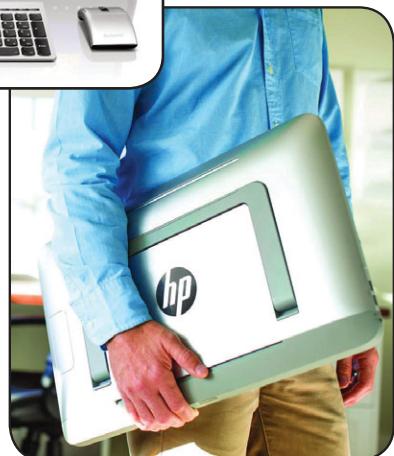
Portable All-In-Ones

Your family wants a big, portable tablet. You want a full-powered computer with a keyboard and a mouse. Fortunately, everybody wins when you buy a flexible, all-in-one, touchscreen PC with Intel Core processing power inside.

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Three-Way Flexibility

Use your portable AIO your way:

- **Traditional upright mode:** Enjoy the ergonomics of a desk and the easy typing of a keyboard with an AIO's upright configuration.
- **Unplugged:** Your portable AIO's built-in battery lets you take it with you from room to room.
- **Table-top:** Lay your AIO flat to play games with your friends and family.

The Centerpiece Of A Connected Home

The beautiful, clutter-free design of a portable AIO hides the power of an Intel Core processor under its (very sleek) hood. This gives you brand new ways to use Intel performance, such as a family table-top game night or browsing through real estate listings on the couch. A 10-point touchscreen puts you in full control of your video streaming, music, and photos, not to mention your apps and full Windows programs.

Great Choices

You can buy an Intel-based, portable AIO in a variety of screen sizes from major PC manufacturers. Some examples:

Portable AIO	SKU
Sony VAIO Tap 20	6851237
Lenovo IdeaCentre Horizon 27	9008234
HP ENVY Rove 20	9008261
Dell XPS 18	8857046

An Intel® Processor Gives You A Full Windows® 8 Tablet

The wait is over. And it was worth it. Finally, you can buy a tablet powered by an Intel processor. Today's Intel Atom processor gives you the power to run a *full* version of Windows 8, along with the efficiency necessary to enjoy great battery life.

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	Windows® 8
Compatible with apps from the Windows Store	
Backward-compatible with Windows 7 applications and programs outside of the Windows Store	
Compatible with cameras, printers, and other devices	

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An Intel Processor To Power Tablets

Intel designed its new Atom processor to deliver the perfect combination of performance and efficiency.

The latest generation Intel Atom processor was redesigned for today's software such as full Windows 8, and to be backward-compatible with programs and peripherals such as printers running on older Windows operating systems.

At the same time, the new Atom fits perfectly into the thin form factor of a touchscreen tablet. Its power-efficient design means that you'll get the battery life you need as you use your tablet on the go. Look for the Intel Atom logo on new Windows 8 tablets.

A Full Version Of Windows 8

You may be aware that tablets come with different operating systems. And it's important to know what you're getting before you buy.

Ordinary tablets have light-duty OSes that are meant to run on ARM-style processors, such as those found in smartphones. Compared to Windows 8, these "lite" OSes limit the things a tablet can do.

The new Atom processor, on the other hand, has the performance to run the more capable x86-based Windows 8. This means that tablets with the Intel Atom can run full Windows software, not just apps from the Windows Store.

There's A QWERTY Board To Suit Every User

Keyboard Types

A computer peripheral staple, the keyboard is an essential item for any computer user. That's why it's imperative to choose a model designed to fit your needs. Take a look at what makes wireless, ergonomic, and gaming models special.

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Adding a wireless keyboard to a computer will prevent clutter and tangled wires when you have limited space.



Unleash Your Board

Adding a wireless keyboard to a computer will prevent clutter and tangled wires when you have limited space. There's also the added benefit of being able to walk away from your desk and use the keyboard to control media playback—some models can operate up to 30 feet away from your computer. Setup is simple: Plug a small USB nano transceiver into your computer and you're in business. Because the board is battery-powered, you'll eventually need to replace its battery.

Type With Comfort

If you spend long periods of time at your computer, an ergonomic keyboard is an ideal peripheral. These models are designed to promote a healthier body posture, which can help minimize muscle strain and other problems such as carpal tunnel syndrome. Many boards split and angle the positions of their QWERTY keys to create a more natural alignment for your hands, wrists, and shoulders. Soft touch keys and built-in wrist rests also provide additional comfort.

Get Your Game On

The look and feel of a gaming keyboard can be very different from a traditional QWERTY keyboard, but it's optimized to deliver the best gaming experience possible. Features such as mechanical key switches and an ultra-quick response time will help you nail every keystroke with comfort and efficiency. Additionally, some gaming models have special keys for navigation, multiple gaming modes, and sequential keystroke support.

FirstGlimpse

To Add Network Speed, Shop For Wi-Fi AC Or N Upgrade Your Router

PCs, mobile devices, game consoles, and even TVs now come with wireless Internet capabilities. But to stream Web content and HD video to these Wi-Fi devices, you need the fast and reliable connection of a quality router. Here's the latest scoop.

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To stream Web content and HD video, you need the fast and reliable connection of a quality router.



Wi-Fi AC Offers Cable-Like Speed

- Wi-Fi AC (802.11ac) gives you much faster speed than Wi-Fi N, G, B, or A with compatible adapters, so you can stream even HD video smoothly
- Backward-compatible with slower 802.11n/g/b devices
- A 2.4GHz Wi-Fi N, G, or B device on the network won't reduce the speed of 5GHz Wi-Fi AC or N connections
- Adapters for non-mobile devices such as PCs may use multiple antennas to reach theoretical Wi-Fi AC network speeds of up to 1,300Mbps; mobile device network access may not be quite as speedy

Wi-Fi N Routers Are Inexpensive

- Wi-Fi N (5GHz or 2.4GHz) is fine for streaming most video over your network
- Speeds of up to 450Mbps with multi-antenna adapters; mobile devices may have slower access
- Backward-compatible with Wi-Fi G, B, and maybe A (802.11g/b/a) devices
- A dual-band concurrent (simultaneous) Wi-Fi N or AC router can connect to 5GHz and 2.4GHz devices at the same time, unlike a selectable (non-concurrent) dual band or standard Wi-Fi router

Equip Your Laptop & Tablet For Mobile Computing

Ticket, passport, and ID. You've packed these essentials, but have you remembered all the extras you need to protect and connect your computing devices? Beyond the basic laptop case or tablet cover, here are few items you won't want to leave home without.

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Have you
remembered
all the extras
you need to
protect and
connect your
computing
devices?



Secure & Prepare

Safeguarding your laptop during your travels requires more than just a reliable bag. To add an extra layer of protection, consider investing in a laptop cable lock that you can secure with a combination or key. Although you probably wouldn't lock down a tablet in quite the same way, you can still protect its functionality with a scratch proof, military-grade screen protector. Many such tablet shields feature self-healing properties, glare reduction, and drop-resistant grip.

Work Comfortably

If you're working on the go, you're likely logging hours on your laptop in airport terminals and at other inconvenient locations. But by sliding an ergonomic lapdesk under your computer, you can sit practically anywhere and type without discomfort. Or, if you're a tablet user that still prefers the tactile feel of a traditional QWERTY keyboard, add a Bluetooth keyboard that simply folds into a hard shell case. This way you can protect your tablet and work efficiently wherever you travel.

Take Power To-Go

Inevitably, the low battery icon will appear on your laptop screen if you're typing while unplugged. However, when you attach a thin, sheet-like battery to your laptop, it's possible to effectively double its battery life during each computing session. Tablet batteries may only need an infrequent re-up now that most hold a 10-hour charge, but you can easily charge while staying productive when you connect your tablet to a charging dock.

FirstGlimpse

With So Many Touch-Based Devices, It's No Secret That Apps Are Everywhere

If you use a tablet, smartphone, laptop, or all-in-one PC (or if you use all of them), it's more than likely that you use numerous apps every day. Apps receive updates and improvements frequently, so be aware of new trends and familiarize yourself with app changes.

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Apps On Tablets

Now that tablets straddle both business and personal use realms, many apps have added helpful features such as cloud-based backups, account syncing, and password protection. You can use productivity apps to get things done at work, while at home your tablet can double as a second screen when you watch TV shows.

Apps On Phones

The app as we know it originated on the small screen of the smartphone. Today, there are thousands of apps available to help you accomplish, organize, enjoy, manage, listen to, and watch just about anything. Apps also offer simple ways to stay connected to others via social media, texting, and video chatting.

Apps On AIOS

All-in-one computers (which could now be considered the "big screen" of app interfaces) are becoming increasingly more app friendly. The latest AIOS can transform from the traditional upright position to a slate-style large "tablet" to a wall-mountable display, all with a cutting edge, app-based operating system.

Apps On Laptops

Touchscreen apps are appearing not only on standard laptops, but also on convertible laptops (hinged models that can swivel and fold backward). Because you can use the latter type of laptop in various modes or positions, such as tent, tablet, or stand, you're able to interact with a broad range of entertainment, business, and gaming apps.

Touchscreens Come In All Shapes & Sizes Know Your Tablets

As we integrate tablets into our work lives, family time, and recreational activities, we grow to rely on the many innovative features and capabilities they offer. To ensure that you're buying a model that fits your lifestyle and price point, compare the options below.

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High-End Tablets

- These models have powerful processors that prolong battery life, allow efficient multitasking, and speed up mobile Web browsing
- You'll find the largest screen sizes in this category—they can range anywhere from 8.9 to 12.5 inches
- In terms of storage, 32GB and 64GB are standard capacities but select models max out at 128GB

Mid-Range Options

- Most popular operating systems are loaded onto mid-range tablet models
- HD displays, cameras with 2 or 3MP, and built-in video recording capabilities are common tablet features in this price range
- Stay connected to the Web using Wi-Fi and mobile broadband, such as 3G/4G, from wireless service providers

Entry-Level Models

- On-board memory typically tops out at 8GB but there are a few budget-friendly tablets that offer more
- Most low-cost models only support Wi-Fi connectivity and aren't compatible with 3G/4G cellular data networks
- Screen sizes for the lowest priced tablets are 7 inches on average; they don't exceed 10 inches

USB Flash Drives & External Hard Drives Let You Back Up Your Data

As you accumulate more media on any computer, it's a wise idea to back up all of your song, video, and photo files so you don't lose them. Depending on your lifestyle needs, you'll find portable storage devices that offer different capacity, style, and security options.

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Back Up For The Long Haul

Mainly used as backup drives for laptop and desktop computers, portable hard drives can also be used to add capacity to DVRs, network storage systems, and more. These add-on storage units built on 2.5-inch hard drives are slim enough to slip into your notebook bag or pocket, yet they can hold up to 2TB of your data. Thus, they give you an easy way to bring your music collection with you on vacation or to tote high-resolution design materials to a business meeting. Most portable drives use the USB 2.0 interface, but you should keep an eye out for drives with the new USB 3.0 connection. When used with a USB 3.0-compatible port and cable, the new interface will help external drives run faster than ever. It's backward compatible with USB 2.0 and 1.1 ports, too.

Carry Files Wherever You Go

Flash memory devices are common widgets that are both recordable and erasable. They range in size from a fingernail to nearly a credit card, but they're all extremely pocketable. Flash drives are generally built much tougher than any hard drive, and nearly all have USB 2.0 or 3.0 connectors. They can store 16, 32, or 64GB of data or more, depending on the model, so they see a lot of use as informal backup devices for works in progress, important documents, and so on. They can also be used as data transfer mechanisms for moving photos, presentations, video clips, and more between computers. When you're over at your mother's house, for instance, you'll be able to take home copies of her photos from the most recent family gathering.

The Best Of Sony In A Tablet

Xperia™ Tablet Z

Sony's new Xperia Tablet Z can entertain you anywhere you go. It's water-resistant, thin, and light, so you can enjoy it practically anywhere. At the same time, its razor-sharp screen takes advantage of Sony's world-renowned display technology.

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Splash-Proof

The water-resistant⁽¹⁾ Xperia Tablet Z is the perfect choice when your work or play gets messy. No need to worry about a spilled drink—or even a dunk in a puddle—because the tablet is sealed against liquids as well as dust. In the kitchen, in the lab, or in the field, the Xperia Tablet Z just works.

World's Thinnest

Sony says that its Xperia Tablet Z is the thinnest 10.1-inch screen tablet in the world⁽²⁾ (0.27 inch thin). It's also very lightweight, at just a touch more than 1 pound.

And yet, the Z is tougher than it looks. Ultra-strong glass and a sturdy frame protect the tablet from everyday mishaps.

Entertainment

The Z's Full HD Reality Display means sharper, more vivid pictures and video. And get more from watching television with your Z and the free TV SideView™ app. Control the TV, browse the channel guide, and change the channel with your tablet, all without having to minimize what you're watching on the TV.

Powerful & Practical

- Qualcomm Snapdragon™ S4 Pro quad-core 1.5 GHz processor
- Long battery life (up to 10 hours⁽³⁾)
- 8MP rear camera with Exmor R for mobile (2MP front cam)
- Android™ 4.1 Jelly Bean

(1) Submersible down to 3 feet for up to 30 minutes. Requires that all ports and covers are firmly closed. (2) As of Feb 4, 2013.

(3) Based on Sony engineering testing; for details, visit store.sony.com. Actual performance may vary based on settings, usage, environmental conditions, wireless connectivity and other factors.

Choose The Ideal PC For Your Computing Style Make It Personal

Everyone seems to want a tablet these days, but new owners quickly find out that a tablet is more of a complement to a computer than a replacement device. Let's break down the benefits of each type of PC, so you can choose one that fits your lifestyle.

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Like an Ultrabook, a traditional laptop provides great computing power with wireless Web access.



On Ultrabooks

This new laptop category has plenty of attractive qualities, such as a longer battery life and a sleek mobile design. They also contain powerful multi-core processors. Some models can wake up from deep sleep and launch apps in a flash thanks to SSD storage. Certain Ultrabooks even feature a touchscreen for hands-on computing.

Laptop Benefits

Like an Ultrabook, a traditional laptop provides great computing power with wireless Web access. That said, a laptop may cost less because it's physically thicker and bulkier. Additionally, some of the latest laptop models now feature a convertible design, allowing you to "fold" the device into tablet mode or back into laptop mode.

About All-In-Ones

An AIO's display contains all the parts of a desktop PC that would normally reside in a separate case. An AIO lets you type on a full-sized keyboard, and it accepts the precision input of a mouse for delicate tasks such as photo retouching. That said, some AIOs come with touchscreens for easy, tablet-like navigation.

Desktop Details

A desktop PC comes in a case, and it may connect to a separate monitor via a cable. Its advantages include affordability and broad support for upgrades. A stationary PC such as a desktop or an all-in-one invites you to set up an ergonomically correct computing area with a supportive chair and proper desk height.

Copy, Save Docs & Preserve Old Photos Using Different Scanners

Although you might assume scanners are only good for one thing, they actually have a number of features that make them useful for various tasks. Read on to learn about new and standard scanner capabilities, including image capture, photo enhancements, and more.

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Among the different styles of scanners available today, there are two main types: flatbed and sheetfed scanners.



Pick A Type

Among the different styles of scanners available today, there are two main types: flatbed and sheetfed scanners. The former are akin to copy machines, where you open a lid and lay a document flat on the device's glass to scan it. Alternatively, sheetfed scanners work a lot like printers, where you place a document to be scanned in a tray, and the machine pulls it through while scanning. Keep in mind that both types can handle a variety of different paper types and sizes.

Take It With You

For on-the-go use, some sheetfed scanners are compact and can easily fit inside a briefcase. Handheld models are no bigger than a three-hole punch, and they can scan a document to create a high-resolution image with a single pass. Some models have built-in memory card slots, so you can scan and save images without using a computer. If you need to quickly scan receipts, paperwork, or business cards, a portable scanner is a great solution.

Enhance & Add Effects

If you want to dig up family photos for a restoration project, a flatbed scanner offers a convenient way to scan and digitally enhance old photos. Specifically, some scanner models offer photo correction for issues such as faded colors. And, if you're working with old slides and negatives, there are models that can scan them using a built-in transparency unit. That way, you can touch up and enlarge the photo memories you've saved for decades.

A Compact System For Maximum Multitasking

All-In-One PCs

Desktop computers can take up a lot of space. Besides the system itself, you'll need room on your desk for a monitor, keyboard, and mouse. All-in-one computers, however, offer the same functionality but are designed to save space.

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Space Saving

An all-in-one's components are built into a thin base or a case that looks like a PC monitor. Connectivity and peripheral features, such as Wi-Fi, USB ports, and a disc drive, are also built into the body of an all-in-one. Because they're versatile, all-in-ones are ideal for a college student's dorm room, a kitchen, a workshop, or a child's room.

Touchscreen

If your all-in-one has a touchscreen, you'll be able to control it by using intuitive finger gestures. For example, with the touch-sensitive Windows 8, you'll be able to surf the Web and use applications by touching the screen. An adjustable touchscreen may also make it easier for you to read, play games, and edit photos.

Video & Audio

Many all-in-one computers have screens that are 20 inches or larger (measured diagonally), allowing you to enjoy online entertainment such as streaming video, games, or Web site content. Built-in speakers can provide quality audio for a more immersive movie or music entertainment experience.

Cut Some Cables

All-in-one PCs typically include built-in Wi-Fi, so you won't need to run an Ethernet cable to the system for Internet access. Without being tied down to a wired network, you can place a compact all-in-one in a number of different locations. You'll also have fewer cables to disconnect or reconnect when you move the system.

Your Favorite Portable Device Could Use Some Tablet Extras

A tablet's possibilities become even more exciting with a few useful accessories. Some keep your tablet safe from accidents; others make it easier to use for entertainment and communication. Our ideas below are only the beginning.

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Stands/Docks

You typically hold a tablet in your hand, but with a stand or dock, you can accomplish other tasks as you work with your device. For instance, you can use a kitchen cabinet stand or a countertop stand or dock for easy cooking reference. You won't have to put down your cooking utensils and pick up your tablet to see a recipe's next step.

Chargers/Cables

With the right connection, you can charge your tablet when you're on the go or view your tablet's content on other devices. For example, a dual-USB car charger will refresh the batteries of your tablet and another USB device at the same time. And with a USB cable, you can connect your tablet to a compatible HDTV to see its content.

Cases/Covers

Depending on the level of tablet protection you need, there are many options to choose from. Shock-absorbent cases snap onto a tablet's body, and often include a built-in screen protector. You'll also find covers that are hinged and open like books, in addition to sleeves made from soft materials that zip closed around your device.

Screen Protection

Tablets are susceptible to scratches, fingerprint smudges, and glare. To ensure that these annoyances don't take away from your experience, you need a durable screen protector. Typically, these will include scratch resistance or an anti-scratch coating, smudge resistance, or glare reduction. Some even offer a lifetime replacement policy.

There's More To A Mouse Than Meets The Eye

Click, Swipe & Tap

Believe it or not, the type of mouse you pair with your PC or laptop can affect your computing experience. So, before you get comfortable at your workspace—or playspace, for that matter—consider all of the mouse options available to you.

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Mobilize With A Portable Mouse

Although you might think a mouse is just a mouse, there's more to these little input devices than meets the eye. You'll find that laptop and tablet mice are often smaller than typical desktop mice, making them easier to stow and carry when you're on the go. Mobile mice are generally the wireless kind, whether they operate via a USB receiver or a wireless pairing protocol, such as NFC (near field communication) or Bluetooth Low Energy 4.0 connectivity.

Make Winning Moves Using A Gaming Mouse

With ergonomic grips and programmable buttons, most gaming mice have features to complete your game character's missions with greater precision. Beyond strategy-oriented designs, some gaming mice also include switches to activate quick-response capabilities and onboard memory to enhance your in-game moves. While gaming mice may require a bigger investment, any gamer will appreciate the gameplay advantage they deliver.

Get Precise With Touch-Based Tracking

Not unlike the touchpads found on the latest laptops, there are touch-based surfaces, or trackpads, on certain mice. So, instead of moving a scroll wheel to navigate a Web page, you can swipe, flick, and tap the surface of the mouse or trackpad. Not only is this design ambidextrous, but it can make multitasking easier, especially if the trackpad allows for both hand gestures and clicking.

Forget Connecting With A Cable And Print Wirelessly

Today's printers have moved beyond simply printing black-and-white or color documents. Now equipped with wireless connectivity, many offer a number of "PC-free" features that cater to different home and small business needs.

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Connect To Your Network & Start Printing

- Introducing a Wi-Fi-compatible printer to your wireless home network allows you to print remotely from almost anywhere in your house.
- Some network-enabled printers support "computer-less printing," which means you can send documents, Web pages, and emails from a mobile device to a printer using a supported printing app.

Print, Scan & Copy With One Device

- In addition to printing, many network-ready models can handle scanning and copying tasks. These are called AIO (all-in-one) printers.
- Some AIO printers have multi-media capabilities beyond basic functions. For example, many printers can print compatible DVDs and CDs so you can personalize your media discs with labels and graphics.

Save Space & Print Via Email

- If a standard printer, fax machine, copier, and scanner are too much for your space, a single compact all-in-one unit can provide the same capabilities with a space-saving design. And because it's not networked via wires, you can place your printer in a central location.
- Certain printers can be assigned an email address, so you can easily email your docs to the printer itself.

Take Advantage Of Professional PC & Tablet Services

Don't let PC installation and setup squash the excitement of using a new computing device. Instead, relinquish these tasks to the technology experts at your local CE retailer. Read on to learn how these computing professionals can take care of business.

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In order to use your computing device without worry, we recommend that you invest in protection and replacement plans.



Set It Up Right

You can rely on in-store computing pros to help you with any of the following:

- PC, tablet, and mobile phone setup (necessary steps vary by model)
- Printer and wireless home networking setup
- Online software and operating system installation plus data transferal

Protect Or Replace

In order to use your computing device without worry, we recommend that you invest in protection and replacement plans. A protection plan typically covers accidental damage, one-time battery replacement, power surge repair, all without extra charges for parts and labor. In the event of a malfunction or breakdown, a replacement plan can pull you out of a jam. Replacement plans generally cover items such as modems, routers, scanners, and audio accessories.

Tune-Ups & Repairs

Without a periodic system cleanup, your PC or laptop can operate at a snail's pace. But when you call upon a retail PC tech, he or she can assess your system's needs, clear out unnecessary files, and run software updates. If a diagnostic test reveals that a program isn't running properly or a component needs to be repaired, the tech will troubleshoot your hardware or software. Fees may vary depending on the number of repairs performed.

Don't Let Heat Damage Your PC

Cool Your Computer

Too much heat can shorten the life of your laptop or desktop PC. Fortunately, there are plenty of aftermarket gadgets and accessories you can use to keep your computer cool. Here's a brief glimpse.

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Extend Your Laptop's Life

The trouble with notebook computers is that it's easy to endanger them without meaning to. Set your laptop down on a comforter, or even a blanket on your lap, and you can inadvertently block its fan intake. Without cool air circulation, your notebook's hard drive and other components can heat up and expire before their time.

Notebook coolers can save the day. They're basically laptop stands with ventilation holes and a fan or two built in. The fan(s) run on power from one of your notebook's USB ports. Always use your laptop on a notebook cooler, and you'll probably extend its life. You can even buy replacements for the smaller fan(s) inside your laptop.

Chill Out Your PC

If your desktop computer is running too warm, it may make more noise than it should. This is because many PCs have fans that spin faster when things heat up, all in an attempt to cool everything down. Although it's normal to have more fan noise during intense tasks such as video games, you never want it to reach an obnoxious level. An extra fan can help, if there's a place to mount one in your PC case. You can also cool down a hot processor in a quieter way with an aftermarket heatsink or closed-loop liquid cooler. Finally, use canned air to blow the dust out of your PC, heatsink(s), and fan filters (if present) every few months. Dust acts like a blanket to trap heat in, so blasting it away can help your PC components last longer.

Go Mobile For Back To School Epson Printers

Epson's compact wireless printers are ready to work hard for you this school year. The Epson Expression Home XP-410 and WorkForce WF-2540 make it easy to print from your iPad, iPhone, tablet, and smartphone, so you can get more done while on the go.

COMPUTERS & TABLETS

EPSON®
EXCEED YOUR VISION



NEW! Expression Home XP-410
Small-In-One Printer
Print | Copy | Scan | Photo | Wi-Fi

SKU: 8826775
www.epson.com

WorkForce WF-2540
All-In-One Printer
Print | Copy | Scan | Fax | Wi-Fi

SKU: 6502314

Small Size Without Compromize

You'll get all the performance you need from these sleek, quiet, and easy-to-use Epson printers. Thanks to instant-drying inks, you can print and share crisp, sharp documents and photos immediately, which makes these space-saving printers ideal for busy students at home or in the dorms. And, you can also wirelessly connect your laptop or mobile device to the Epson XP-410 via Wi-Fi Direct, a new wireless standard that doesn't require a router.

The Complete Wireless Solution

There are many ways to print wirelessly to Epson printers, including Epson Connect, Apple AirPrint, and Google Cloud Print. So whether you need to print a last minute term paper or photos from last night's dinner, you're only a few taps away from holding the paper or pictures in your hands. These free solutions make it easy to print from your smartphone or tablet to Epson Printers. Print from across the room or across campus—print from anywhere!

Select Your Ideal Printer

Features	XP-410	WF-2540
Memory card slot	x	
Wi-Fi Direct (no router required)	x	
Mobile printing	x	x
Easy setup	x	x
Space-saving design	x	x
Auto Doc Feeder/Fax		x
Built-in Ethernet		x



Choose One To Match Your Computing Needs

Mice

To better fit your computing style, mice are available in ergonomic, wireless, programmable multi-button, and mobile designs. Some models even use special tracking technologies to let you mouse on surfaces that standard mice can't, such as glass, granite, and carpet.

Perfect For: Anyone who doesn't prefer to use a trackpad or touchscreen to interact with a desktop or laptop system.



Back Up & Store All Of Your Valuable Digital Assets

External Hard Drives

With an external hard drive, you can back up your photos, videos, and other important files so you'll still have them if your computer crashes. You can also offload large files from your system to make your computer run more efficiently. Use a portable or desktop drive, according to your needs.

Perfect For: The photography enthusiast or videographer who needs to regularly back up and save files.



Protect Your System From Unexpected Power Spikes

Surge Protectors

By plugging your computer into a surge protector, you can prevent damage caused by electrical surges or spikes. Over time, power surges can shorten the life span of your computer equipment, but a surge protector will absorb any increase in electrical current and shield your system from potential harm.

Perfect For: Computer users who want to protect the performance of their PCs and laptops.



Produce High-Quality Documents At Home & On The Go

Printers

With features such as mobile printing, borderless photos, faxing, scanning, copying, and more, today's printers are built to offer convenience. And with a Wi-Fi-capable model, you won't be constrained by a cable connection, so you can place it wherever you want in your home or office.

Perfect For: Any busy family that needs an all-in-one device that can operate as a copier, scanner, fax, and printer.

Computers Q&A

Cover The Basics

As computer technologies change, new models are released. To ensure that you stay on top of the latest advancements, here are some common questions and answers about next-generation computer features and capabilities.

COMPUTERS & TABLETS



What are the differences between a tablet and a convertible laptop?

Common to most popular tablets models is the slate-style design, which features only a touchscreen display. Alternatively, a convertible device combines the functionality of a laptop with the portability of a tablet. Convertibles typically include a hinge that lets you fold, swivel, or twist the display for productivity or entertainment use. You may see the term "hybrid" interchanged with "convertible," although hybrids generally feature detachable keyboard and tablet pieces.

Is there a type of printer that's both multifunctional and small enough to travel with me?

Yes, you're looking for a portable printer. What separates this type of printer from home office or all-in-one printers is its ability to print documents and photos, usually wirelessly, almost anywhere and in a timely fashion.

Which computing products allow me to stream video and audio via the cloud?

Because Wi-Fi connectivity comes standard with most mobile computing devices, cloud-based streaming is more ubiquitous than ever on laptops, tablets, eReaders, and even all-in-one PCs (however, some desktops still rely on a wired Ethernet connection). You can access video and audio content via apps, online storage sites, or other Web-based accounts shared across multiple devices.

What devices can I use to store files when I've exceeded my PC's SSD capacity?

You can use what's called a NAS (network-attached storage) device. Dedicated to cloud storage and file sharing, a NAS device offers a single location from which multiple network users can access files. Choose a capacity such as 4TB, 8TB, or 12TB and you'll have plenty of space.

Can an all-in-one PC have features similar to a tablet's?

Yes. Some all-in-one PCs feature a multimedia-optimized touchscreen, like a tablet's touch-sensitive display. In addition to this similarity, unique all-in-ones with an adjustable viewing angle make it easy to read a book, watch a movie, or play a game.

Glossary

Computers & Tablets

Shopping for computers, mobile devices, accessories, and the like can be daunting, especially if you're unfamiliar with much of the complex terminology. Here, we'll explain some of the must-know terms, so you can be a tech-savvy user.

COMPUTERS & TABLETS

#

802.11ac, 802.11n, etc.

Wi-Fi has come in different formats over the years, all named for their backward-compatible technical standards such as 802.11a, b, g, and so on. Currently, 802.11n (Wi-Fi N) supports wireless network speeds up to 450Mbps per device, while the new 802.11ac supports up to 1300Mbps.

A

all-in-one computer

A PC that encompasses every component in a single, towerless unit that looks like a monitor. Typically AIOs are thin, making them ideal for small spaces. Many have built-in Wi-Fi capabilities, so you won't need to connect the system to an Ethernet cable for Internet access. It's also common for portable models to feature touchscreen controls and convertible displays.

B

Bluetooth

A short-range wireless standard that connects devices such as computers, phones, game console controllers, headsets, and digital cameras so they can be used together without being connected physically with a cord.

M

mobile broadband

A communication technology, also known as 3G or 4G LTE, that uses cell phone towers to connect devices to the Internet. Generally, you need a service contract for mobile broadband, and it's not available in all areas.

N

Near Field Communication

More commonly known as NFC, this wireless technology enables smartphones and similar devices to communicate with each other via radio frequency. One device can exchange data and transfer content to another device in close proximity.

O

operating system

The software, such as Windows 8, Android, iOS or Mac OS X, that controls a computer and its peripherals and serves as the primary interface for users.

R

RAM (random-access memory)

A type of memory that holds data a computer is currently using.

U

Ultrabook

An Ultrabook is a sleeker, thinner upgrade from a traditional, standard-spec laptop. Ultrabook models typically feature rapid response technology (quickly wakes from sleep mode), aluminum chassis, and enhanced multitasking performance. Many Ultrabooks may also feature solid-state drives, long battery life, and touchscreen displays.

USB 3.0

The most recent external bus interface standard for transferring data to storage drives. When using a USB 3.0 connection to copy files or perform a backup, you should notice faster speeds overall. USB 3.0 also recharges device batteries faster, and is backward-compatible.

W

Wi-Fi

This is the common name for 802.11 wireless networking with computers, tablets, smartphones, game consoles, and certain TVs and digital cameras. A wireless router or access point provides a Wi-Fi "hotspot" for network and/or Internet access. To connect a device to a new hotspot, type in the network's security passphrase using your device (usually a one-time process).

To Learn About The Hottest Products & Tech
READ THE DIGITAL EDITION OF

FirstGlimpse®

Everything You Need To Enjoy
Laptop Gaming

What might come to mind when you think of "PC gaming" is a high-end, desktop system built from the ground up with powerful components. But to game like a pro, you don't need a custom system. With the right laptop and accessories, you can also get your game on.

COMPUTERS & TABLETS

Corsair Vengeance 2000 Wireless 7.1 Gaming Headset



Keep Your Equipment Cool

Long hours of intense gaming will cause any laptop to heat up and this could damage your system's internal components. You'll be set with a laptop that has a built-in extra power source in the form of RAM, and Wireless N connection. Many models will also look more realistic and smooth on a system that has dedicated graphics.

Protect With A Laptop Case

No mobile device should be without a case or sleeve of some kind, especially when you're protecting your precious laptop. Protect your laptop with a hard shell case or a soft pouch between your laptop and the keyboard. Many models are powered by the laptop itself via a pass-through USB cable.

Hear More With Headphones

Designed to eliminate background noise and let you communicate with other gamers, these gaming headphones typically include a microphone, a flexible headband, and an attached microphone. Many models may also employ noise-cancelling technology so others can hear you clearly.

SONY

Touchscreen Ultrabooks™
Sony VAIO® T-Series

Inspire the efficiency of touchscreen computing, coupled with the productivity of a real keyboard. Now add the style, portability, and power of an Ultrabook. Intrigued? With these Sony creations, we don't blame you.

COMPUTERS & TABLETS

Sony VAIO® T-Series Ultrabooks™

SKU: 7776333 (VWT13112C03) and 7776344 (VWT13113C03)
www.sony.com

VAIO T-Series Specs

- Intel Smart Response Technology for quick boot-ups, faster application launches and longer battery life
- 750GB + 24GB MLC Hybrid
- EXMR Web cam for a clear, bright picture even in dimly-lit rooms
- DVD/CD burner, HDMI, USB 3.0, VGA, Gigabit Ethernet ports for full connectivity and media access

Two Models

VWT13112C03

- Intel 3rd Gen Core i5 1.8GHz (2.7 GHz Turbo Boost)
- 750GB + 24GB MLC Hybrid
- Intel 3rd Gen Core i7 2.7GHz (3.1GHz Turbo Boost)
- 1TB + 24GB MLC Hybrid

VWT13113C03

- Intel 3rd Gen Core i7 2.7GHz (3.1GHz Turbo Boost)
- 1TB + 24GB MLC Hybrid

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Ask The Pros For A Little Gadget Help

Assistance in setup or troubleshooting your portable device may be as close as your local electronics store. Here are some examples of services for your MP3 player, car entertainment/navigation system, or mobile phone.

PORTABLE DEVICES

With pro help, you can leave the store with your device ready to use.



An Ounce Of Prevention

Your local electronics store may offer extended coverage for your portable devices. Some examples:

- Accident/wear and tear coverage
- Screen pixel problem coverage
- Dead battery replacement
- Car CD/DVD player cleaning
- Phone cracked screen repair

Setup & Installation

With pro help, you can leave the store with your device ready to use.

- Learn to move your CDs' music to your new MP3 player
- Pro installation of your new car stereo, amp, speakers, rear backup camera, car alarm, video screens
- Copy your contacts to your new phone, pair it with your headset, set up your social sites & email

Diagnosis & Repair

When your gizmo stops working correctly, bring it in and let the pros have a look. They can:

- Analyze your MP3 player problem and recommend some options
- Reset your MP3 player or upgrade its firmware
- Give you a lifetime workmanship guarantee on any car electronics they install for you

Create New Rhythms, Lose Weight & Get Fit

Motivating Gadgets

If you seek health and fitness success, consider one of the devices below. They all offer personal Web accounts where you can view your history and progress, giving you an extra kick to meet your goals. Some even work with popular mobile operating systems.

PORTABLE DEVICES



Sleep Better Than Before

We all need adequate sleep to feel our best. However, the quality of your sleep is just as important as the amount. To take steps to improve your slumber, you can wear a sleep device to monitor how long you spend in different sleep cycles and how often you wake, and to show you your data in graphical form.

Track Your Fitness Goals

To get an accurate picture of your activity level, wearing a light and discrete fitness tracking device will do the trick. Basic models offer LED messages or icons to motivate you, whereas advanced trackers have touchscreens to deliver precise data such as your time, distance, speed, calories burned, and position.

Manage Your Weight

You no longer need a pen and paper to keep a detailed record of your weight progress and goals. Digital scales with wireless capabilities can record your weight and display your history on a tablet or smartphone. Some scales can also upload your data online so you can access it from any Web device.

Watch Your Blood Pressure

Rather than wait for your next doctor's visit to get a blood pressure reading, you can get precise readings at home with a blood pressure dock. To get detailed information that's automatically tracked, simply connect a mobile device to the dock, wrap the dock's pressure cuff around your arm, and press start on your device.

Tangle-Free Audio Enjoyment Bluetooth Headsets

If your smartphone or other mobile device supports Bluetooth, you can pair it with Bluetooth-capable headphones for personal audio enjoyment on the go. You'll be able to enjoy tangle-free music, phone calls, podcasts, Internet radio, GPS directions, and more.

PORTABLE DEVICES



Compatibility

There are a lot of Bluetooth headset options on the market, so your first step is to find a model that works with your smartphone, MP3 player, or other portable device. Look for a model that supports your device's Bluetooth version or higher, such as Bluetooth v3.0, and special profiles such as AVRCP (Audio/Video Remote Control Profile).

Basic Specs

If you only plan to use your headset to make phone calls, a mono (single-ear) model should be fine. For music playback, opt for a stereo headset. You'll need a built-in microphone for voice calling, of course. Another factor is how long the headsets' battery will last during use (talk time) and in standby mode.

Notable Features

Some headsets include special features such as a setup mode to make the initial pairing with your device easy. Many will let your phone automatically send calls to your headset. Mobile apps are supported by select headphones, which gives you capabilities such as voice control over your social networking updates.

Clarity & Comfort

Audio quality is important: You'll want to hear and be heard clearly during phone calls, and you'll want your music to sound great. Noise cancellation and sound isolation features can help. As for comfort, most earbud-style headphones come with soft tips of different sizes, so you can use the ones that fit the best.

Listen To The Benefits Of Installing A Car Stereo Amplifier

An amplifier can take your car audio system up a notch—and that's putting it mildly. Have one professionally installed between your car's head unit (receiver) and its speakers, and start enjoying the perks below.

PORTABLE DEVICES

An amplifier gives you the option to add speakers to your vehicle, or to upgrade the ones you have.



More Power

Perhaps most obviously, an amplifier can give you more volume than a typical stock arrangement in which the speakers rely on the receiver's built-in amplification (usually 50W for each of four speakers). For instance, some models can send up to 250W (RMS) to each of a pair of speakers or up to 500W to a subwoofer.

More Speakers

An amplifier gives you the option to add speakers to your vehicle, or to upgrade the ones you have. The number of channels an amp can handle indicates the maximum number of speakers it can support. If you're adding a large subwoofer, get a mono amp or a bridgeable model that lets you combine two channels for the sub.

More Clarity

A standalone amp has more room for amplification circuitry and cooling than a receiver does. (The latter has to fit in a dashboard and contain not only an amp, but also a CD player, a radio, and so on.) Thus a separate amp can come with larger components that produce clearer sound with a higher signal/noise ratio.

Shop Smart

A knowledgeable sales associate can help you select an amp with the right:

- Power level (wattage)
- Number of channels
- Crossovers or filters (high- or low-pass)
- Inputs (speaker- or line-level as needed)



Safeguard Your Device From Wear & Tear

Smartphone & MP3 Player Cases

We frequently carry devices with us to communicate or play media, and it's wise to outfit them with a protective case. You'll find smartphone and MP3 player cases made from different materials, such as acrylic, rubber, or leather, and with useful features such as belt clips, wrist straps, and built-in screen protectors.

Perfect For: Anyone who wants to keep their phone or MP3 player in good working order for the long haul.



Enjoy Multimedia With Better Audio Quality

Headphones

Tablets, MP3 players, and smartphones unlock plenty of audio and video for on-the-go entertainment. To make the most of it, pair your device with a set of headphones that fit your specific needs. For example, you can block background sound with a noise-canceling pair or listen for long stretches of time with a comfortable over-the-ear model.

Perfect For: Those who value the highest entertainment experience possible, even when it's on a smaller screen.



Unleash Content From Your Media Player

Docks & Speakers

From simple speakers that connect via a headphone jack to audio docks you can insert your device into, there are many accessories that can play portable device audio for all to hear. Some docks double as alarm clocks while others can simultaneously play tunes and charge your device's battery.

Perfect For: Those who want to wake up to a portable device playlist or share audio with groups of people.



Make Your Portable Device Last Longer

Chargers & Cables

No matter what type of portable device you have, a dying battery can be a major inconvenience. A portable charger solves this issue, letting you power your device in the car to make important phone calls, surf the Web, or play media. Add a compatible cable, and you'll be able to connect and play media on other devices. For instance, some devices can connect to an HDTV via an HDMI cable.

Perfect For: Those who want a more versatile portable device.

Portable Devices Q&A

Cover The Basics

It's not always easy to keep up with the latest on-the-go A/V devices, but you can get ahead of the tech learning curve if you do your research before you shop. We address some of the most common portable device-related questions below.

PORTABLE DEVICES



What types of devices have heart rate monitors?

Heart rate monitors are most commonly designed as watches. Some watches only measure heart rate, and others have additional features, such as a built-in pedometer, GPS, calorie counter, or stop watch.

How does a Bluetooth-enabled MP3 player differ from an MP3 player that features Wi-Fi connectivity?

An MP3 player with Wi-Fi connectivity uses a wireless connection (provided by a hotspot or in-home network) to access the Internet. Bluetooth is short-range wireless technology to connect with headsets and other devices.

Can I get a dock that will work with multiple types of MP3 players?

Yes, some speaker docks will accommodate multiple models and sizes of a particular brand of player. These usually come with adapters that snap into the dock so that your player will fit correctly.

What options do I have if I want to listen to satellite radio in my vehicle?

Aside from buying a new vehicle with a built-in satellite radio receiver, you can install a satellite radio tuner that plugs into your car stereo (this may require an installation professional) either directly or with a vehicle kit. With a vehicle kit, you're able to enjoy satellite radio programming after you connect the tuner to your stereo via FM transmitter, auxiliary cable, or other compatible adapter.

How can I get my smartphone to play music through my car speakers?

Depending on the model of smartphone you have, you could use any number of audio adapters to play your own songs or stream music from a Web-based app. For a wired connection, any smartphone with a 3.5mm headphone jack can connect to a stereo's or vehicle's built-in auxiliary port via a cable. If you prefer the convenience of wireless audio streaming, find a stereo head unit that supports a smartphone-to-stereo deck Bluetooth pairing.

Glossary

Portable Devices

Smartphones and MP3 players share a lot of things in common, including terminology. To better understand these devices, read on to become acquainted with some of their features, capabilities, and specifications.

PORTABLE DEVICES

A

AAC

Short for Advanced Audio Codec, this format is a competitor of the more common MP3 file format. It is the default format used by Apple.

B

Bluetooth

A wireless technology, supported by some MP3 players, that connects devices with short-range radio frequencies.

C

capacity

How much data a smartphone or MP3 player can hold. This is typically expressed in gigabytes or megabytes. Generally speaking, 1GB will hold about 250 songs.

D

download

In terms of digital music, downloading is when you retrieve a song from an Internet site or another network connection and save it to your computer or portable music playing device. You can also download

apps to play games, use productivity tools, reference information, and much more.

E

earbuds

Small, egg-shaped speakers you place in your ears so you can listen to audio from your portable device. These serve the same function as headphones. Many smartphones and music players include their own earbuds, but you can purchase a separate pair that is more comfortable or of better quality.

F

flash memory

Solid-state memory that is lightweight and small with no moving parts. In terms of digital music players, a flash-based player is lighter and smaller than a hard drive-based player, and also, it won't skip. Thus, flash-based players are popular for use during exercise. However, the capacity of a flash-based player isn't as large as a hard drive-based player.

FM tuner

If your music player has a built-in FM tuner, you will be able to listen to music, news, and weather info broadcast from local radio stations.

I

inline mic

A remote microphone built into the cables of some headsets. An in-line mic lets you select and play audio files on your device, answer incoming phone calls, make outgoing calls, and mute your voice.

M

MP3

Perhaps the most popular audio encoding format. It compresses audio to about one-twelfth the original size while still providing excellent sound. In general, a 1MB to 2MB MP3 file will last about one minute.

P

podcast

A downloadable audio episode that is similar to a radio program. A user can subscribe to a podcast for updated episodes, or she can download podcasts one at a time.

W

widescreen

A screen with a 16:9, 16:10, or similarly wide aspect ratio.



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Founded in 1978, Sandhills Publishing is an information processing company with a diverse range of products covering a variety of industries. Sandhills Publishing is located in Lincoln, the capital of Nebraska, and benefits from the quality of life and strong work ethic traditionally associated with the Midwest.

The All-In-One Entertainment System

Xbox One

Introducing Xbox One: Where your favorite movies, music, sports, and live TV come together in one place. As you immerse yourself in games that look and feel like real life, the entire media experience wraps around you. A new generation of entertainment has begun.

GAMING, MEDIA & MORE



Xbox One: Day One Edition

SKU: 9008207
www.bestbuy.com/xboxone



Coming November 2013.

Meet Xbox One

In the Xbox One environment, games push the boundaries of realism, TV obeys your every command, and listening to music while playing a game is a snap. What's more, you can jump from TV to movies to music to a game in an instant. Ultimately, the only one who customizes your Xbox One experience is you.

What It Is

Why Xbox One can be the living room centerpiece:

- HDMI pass-thru lets you watch TV through your Xbox.
- Blu-ray movies and games appear in HD.
- It has an 8-core x86 processor, 8GB of RAM, and a 500GB hard drive.

What It Does

From the biggest blockbuster games to the most popular TV shows to the best of the Web, Xbox One brings all of this and more to your personalized Home screen. With the sound of your voice you can wake up Xbox One when you say "Xbox One," Your TV is now turned on, too, so you're ready to explore.

How It Games

Because Xbox One was built by gamers, for gamers, it strikes the perfect balance of power and performance. You can build life-like cinematic gaming experiences and maintain a presence in game worlds thanks to Living Games technology. In fact, the advanced AI lets your friend play against your shadow when you're away.

Xbox One Wireless Controller with Play & Charge Kit



Xbox One Wireless Controller



Xbox One Chat Headset



Xbox One Play & Charge Kit



Xbox One: Day One Edition

With your reservation of the Xbox One Day One Edition console, you'll get all of the following:

- Xbox One & Kinect sensor
- Commemorative controller
- Exclusive achievement

Xbox One Day One Games

When you reserve Day One Edition games, you can unlock unique items and experiences. In *Ryse: Son Of Rome* you'll fight as a soldier, lead as a general, and rise as a legend. And when you play *Dead Rising 3*, you'll face more zombies, explore an all new city, and use SmartGlass to access exclusive missions.

Xbox Live Gold Membership

A Day One Xbox Live Gold membership is the key to unrivaled multi-player gaming and premier entertainment. Get HD Movies, TV shows, music and sports. Plus anyone in your home can access Xbox Live Gold benefits on your Xbox One. Join Xbox Live Gold today!

Xbox One Accessories

These new add-on devices bring out the best new-gen features of Xbox One:

- Xbox One Wireless Controller
- Xbox One Chat Headset
- Xbox One Play & Charge Kit
- Xbox One Wireless Controller with Play & Charge Kit

Features and requirements are under development and may change prior to release. Available features and content may vary by country. Broadband internet (ISP fees apply) and advanced TV hardware required. Games and media content sold separately. Xbox Live Gold membership, paid subscription and other requirements apply for some Xbox Live features.

Care For Your Consoles, Controllers & More

Gaming Backup

You've just purchased the latest gaming console for family and personal fun, so now is the time to invest in a practical protection plan. Don't let the possibility of a malfunction or breakdown keep you from playing your hardest; check out the services below for more details.

GAMING, MEDIA & MORE

Instead of setting up your console's capabilities on your own, rely on gaming techies who can take care of everything in store.



A Gamer's Insurance

Whether you're primarily a console gamer or you prefer to play your favorite games on handheld gaming systems, you can ensure that your game-playing legacy will remain intact, thanks to comprehensive protection plans provided by your CE retailer. Ask these tech-savvy pros to hook you up with a plan that covers accidental handling damage, power surge recovery, battery replacement, and normal wear and tear. You can even sign up for a one-time controller replacement.

Get Customized Setup

If you're unfamiliar with the latest consoles, you should know that their features extend beyond traditional gameplay. Namely, you can stream Web content, play against online opponents, and assign accounts to family members. Instead of setting up all of these capabilities on your own, rely on gaming techies who can take care of everything in store. Let them activate parental controls, create user accounts, and complete system updates to ensure you're ready to game and entertain.

Gaming Data Transfer

Did you know you can back up game-play data when you run out of space on your console? This is another task your friendly gaming techies can handle when the time is right. Maybe you want to transfer your data to a compatible storage device—that's no problem. Or, perhaps you'd like your current gaming data to be saved on a new gaming system. The pros will do all of this for you when you bring to the store the two devices and your receipt that shows your transfer key code.

Home Monitoring Lets You Keep An Eye On Things

Thanks to increasingly intuitive home surveillance equipment, you can see what's going on inside or outside your home, day or night. Networkable home monitoring systems let you check on things using your smartphone or any Web-connected computer.

GAMING, MEDIA & MORE



Vacations

You'll be able to have a more relaxing time on vacations or business trips when you can keep an eye on the home front with indoor and outdoor cameras. Even the sight of cameras can reduce the risk of a break-in, and so some vendors sell false (but realistic-looking) cameras you can install to discourage bad guys.

Who Can It Be?

The doorbell only rings when you're busy. A camera system can tell you whether it's a pizza delivery or a solicitor. And should you hear a noise at night, you won't even have to get out of bed to see what it is. When you have a camera with night vision, you can be assured that the clamor downstairs is nothing but your cat.

Kids & Pets

It's too quiet. . . What are your kids up to? A quick glance at your phone reassures you that the baby's still asleep and the older kids are playing quietly together, for once. As for your retriever, perhaps you don't quite trust him to be home alone. With surveillance, you can periodically check in to make sure he's not being naughty.

Deliveries

Online tracking tells you that a package has been delivered to your home. What it doesn't tell you is whether the delivery person put it behind the bushes (good) or out in the open for anyone to see (bad). But thanks to your Internet-accessible camera system, you can spend your lunch break with friends instead of going home to check.

Find Material That's Appropriate For Your Kids

ESRB Game RATINGS & DESCRIPTIONS

GAMING, MEDIA & MORE

ESRB (Entertainment Software Rating Board) Ratings

In order for parents to select gaming software appropriate for their children, ESRB (www.esrb.org) ratings are listed on the front and back of most game packages to provide concise and impartial details about a title's content.



Early Childhood

- May be suitable for children ages 3 and older
- Doesn't contain material parents would find inappropriate



Teen

- May be suitable for children ages 13 and older
- May contain violence, suggestive themes, crude humor, minimal blood, simulated gambling, or infrequent use of strong language



Everyone

- May be suitable for children ages 6 and older
- May contain minimal cartoon, fantasy, or mild violence and infrequent use of mild language



Mature

- May be suitable for persons ages 17 and older
- May contain intense violence, blood and gore, sexual content, or strong language



Everyone 10+

- May be suitable for children ages 10 and older
- May contain more cartoon, fantasy, or mild violence/language plus minimal suggestive themes



Adults Only

- Only suitable for persons 18 years and older
- May include prolonged scenes of intense violence, graphic sexual content, or nudity

For additional information, ESRB ratings on the back of game packages include content descriptions and depictions.

Gaming For Parents

Aside from checking a game's ESRB rating, there are other ways you can ensure the games your youngsters are playing are age-appropriate.

- Look at the game graphics on a title's packaging.
- Find game reviews, screen shots, or demos to get a better idea of a game's content.
- If available, use a game's parental controls to restrict content.
- Talk to other parents and children who are familiar with or have played certain titles.

- Participate in your children's gaming and discuss their games as much as possible.
- Be aware that some game titles may contain material that's not ESRB rated. For example, "mods" are program downloads that can alter a game's content. Many games also use the Internet to connect with other players, and this opens the door to live player chats as well as other user-generated content.

Get More From Your Console Gaming Audio

Once upon a time, your TV's built-in speakers were adequate for your console gaming experience. Then again, once upon a time, game audio was nothing but beeps and boops. Today's games become much more immersive with a home theater audio system.

GAMING, MEDIA & MORE

Like movies, most game titles now come with high-quality surround sound for their sound effects, music, and dialogue.



3D For Your Ears: Surround Sound

Video games have reached a level of sophistication that practically makes them interactive movies. And like movies, most game titles now come with high-quality surround sound for their sound effects, music, and dialogue. They can take advantage of your 5.1-channel or other speaker configuration to literally surround you with breathtaking excitement and thunderous subwoofer bass. Even recent game consoles with stereo audio offer virtual surround-sound technologies such as Dolby Pro Logic II, which you can enable with an A/V receiver. Surround sound can not only put you right in the middle of your game world, but also let you bring all your friends along for a motion gaming party.

Stealth & Strategy: Headphones

Sometimes, it can seem like the only free time you have to play video games is when other family members are sleeping, your roommate is studying, or the people in the next apartment are trying to put their baby down for the night. A comfortable pair of headphones can put you back in the game.

With headphones, you can crank up game audio as loud as you like without disturbing others. Headphones also can help you hear subtle game cues you may otherwise miss, such as distant chopper blades or the shout of a sentry. And if your headset has a microphone, you can strategize with your teammates during online multiplayer sessions.

Capture Impressive Gaming Moments In Real Time

Gameplay Recording

Whether you want to record your in-game achievements or stream gameplay live to show your opponents who's boss, a game capture device lets you document and share your virtual accomplishments. Here's how you can freeze those awesome moments forever.

GAMING, MEDIA & MORE



Relive It All

Because the latest gameplay capture devices record in Full 1080p HD, you'll get to experience every stealthy FPS move in vivid, crisp detail. When you complete a difficult level, unlock a coveted new item, or find an Easter egg hidden by the game developers, you'll have high-resolution proof at your fingertips. Although some devices only work with specific video game consoles, you can expect to record gameplay on most popular systems and PCs.

Add Your Commentary

Maybe your goal is to create a tutorial (walkthrough) for other gamers. If so, choose a model that lets you add voiceovers to recorded gameplay or instant commentary during live streaming. You don't have to remain a legend in your own mind: Connect to a community-based gaming platform that makes it easy for you to stream, watch, and chat during real-time gameplay. Your mastery of complex moves won't go unnoticed when you record each success.

Immortalize Your Skills

Can't wait to share that epic moment when you beat the ultimate boss? You don't have to. You can immediately upload recordings to YouTube, Facebook, Twitter and other social media sites. Alternatively, you can use your preferred video editing software to produce a more professional cut. Aside from bragging about your imposing skills, you can create amped-up gaming reviews by including your own play-by-play videos.



Immerse Yourself In Another World

Gaming Headsets

Communication is key to many collaborative online gaming situations, so a headset with a microphone is a natural fit. With a headset, gamers can chat with multi-player teammates during squad play or a raid and hear crucial sound cues more clearly for quicker response times and higher scores.

Perfect For: Gamers who want to keep their ears trained on the game and have an unobtrusive way to communicate.



Sit Down & Get Into Your Games

Gaming Chairs

Comfortably play for the long haul with an ergonomic gaming chair. While you can settle for a basic model, consider the extras that can help take your gaming enjoyment to an entirely different level. For instance, built-in speakers with adjustable volume and sound-responsive vibrations will work together to make you forget you're sitting in your living room.

Perfect For: Gamers who want to fully immerse themselves in the game but maintain maximum comfort.



Game With The Fastest Data Speeds Possible

Dual-Band Wireless AC & N Routers

To enjoy HD games or videos from your game console with the best wireless experience, you need a dual-band 802.11ac or 802.11n router. Some offer extended wireless ranges for an optimal signal, even in large homes. You might also be able to connect USB printers and hard drives to the router to let anyone wirelessly print or upload files via the network.

Perfect For: Gamers who want an instant, lag-free response during online gameplay and media playback.



Get A Better Grip On The Way You Want To Game

Gaming Controllers & Add-Ons

A game console might only include one controller, so you'll need to purchase more unless you always play solo. You can also choose controllers that better match your style: There are many different designs and colors. And to make your games feel more realistic, you can supplement select controllers with add-ons, such as a steering wheel, baseball bat, or crossbow.

Perfect For: Those who want to go head-to-head with others in a game or add some personal flair.

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ON THE LATEST TECH



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